





### Bird Box Builders at Work

The weather was superb, the activities fun, the turnout great and Troopers Hill and Crews Hole Woodland benefited from 10 donated bird boxes.

Sally Oldfield, was able to obtain funding from Bristol Parks to pay for an event to celebrate National Birdbox week and encourage an interest in birdlife. This subsidised the provision of over 30 birdbox kits and help for adults and children making bird boxes and feeders. It also paid for the materials for other craft activities such as making bird masks, taking rubbings of birds, making bird mobiles and using the outline of your hands to make and decorate your own "hand" bird swinging on a perch.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who turned out to prepare the craft activities and then spent Saturday afternoon putting up 3 gazebos, selling drinks and helping children. The last of the bird boxes were put up in Crews Hole woodland as dusk fell over the hill. Luxury family apartments now available for nesting tits and robins!

### Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 18th March:** Troopers Hill Exhibition. 2—5pm, *Wesley Memorial Church Hall.*

**Saturday 1st April:** Work Party on the hill. 10am—midday. *Meet at corner of Troopers Hill Road and Greendown.*

**Wednesday 5th April:** Meeting. 7.15—9.00pm. *Wesley Memorial Church Hall.*

**Friday 14th April:** Good Friday Service. 11.00am onwards. *On the Hill, by the Chimney*

**Saturday 6th May:** Work Party on the Hill. 10am—midday. *Meet at corner of Troopers Hill Road and Greendown.*

**Sunday 7th May:** Dawn Chorus Walk. 6.30am. *Meet at the end of Malvern Road.*

**Thursday 18th May:** Meeting. 7.15—9.00pm. *Wesley Memorial Church Hall.*

#### CONTACT US

If you want to talk to us about issues raised in this newsletter, or anything else, please contact:

**Susan Acton-Campbell** (Chair)

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or

Post a message on the new Forum at:

[www.troopers-hill.org.uk](http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk)

#### No More Books Please

Sixty pounds went to the bank,  
For all your books we you do thank.

But now that books no longer sell,  
We have to say that "we did well."

So now we bring this to a close,  
Please give your books to another cause.

#### A New Life for Troopers Hill

As it looks down on the River Avon,  
Troopers Hill provides a nature haven,  
For myriad butterflies, animals, birds,  
With its history written in many words.

When Cromwell's army to Bristol laid siege,  
This wide, grassy hill met the Troopers' needs,  
Then came the brass works, later Butler's tar,  
Making goods and oil products, in peace and war.

This nature reserve provides a green lung,  
Where morning songbirds happily give tongue,  
But keeping bracken and brambles under control,

On willing workers can take a heavy toll.

A flight of wooden steps down the hill,  
To the curving path, invites walkers still,  
With fences repaired and a new wooden seat,  
Sometimes deer come on their dawn, twilight beat.

It's an evening stroll for red urban foxes,  
Fun for children sliding in cardboard boxes,  
With a new hedge planted and plans galore,  
Who knows what improvements lie in store?

*Molly Setter, January 2006*

#### IF YOU DON'T ASK....

Liz, one of our Friends, found out that her employers have a scheme that will give money to causes nominated by their employees. She asked and was given £100 for Friends of Troopers Hill. Thank you, Liz. If you have similar schemes where you work and would like to help us, please contact Susan if you need information to support an application.

By the way, if any wheelchair users do not have the correct key for the kissing gates on Malvern Rd and Summerhill Terrace leading to Troopers Hill Field, please contact Susan.

#### Stop Press Stop Press

Our chair, Susan Acton-Campbell, was nominated by Sally for a "Women Who Make a Difference" award. We've just received great news: she is indeed a winner. We don't yet know what the actual award will say but expect to hear more in our next edition. All of us would like to say a big "Very well done" to Susan.