

The Friends of Troopers Hill



Winter 2010



Our third Family Fun Dog Show was a very successful event in more ways than one this year. As Friends started to set up for the event, a lost dog was spotted—how ironic is that? Fortunately the dog had been fitted with a “chip” and Sarah, our attending Dog Warden,

was able to use her scanner to read the information contained in it. This enabled her to get a contact phone number for the owner, who was reunited with her pet later that afternoon. Sort of makes the point about chipping your pet doesn't it? Thanks are due to all who helped out, but particularly to Ally and Cheri from Lucas vets who kindly donated their services.

Thanks are also due once again to Beeses for their magnificent donation of part of the proceeds from their annual Beer Festival. The £350 they have given FoTH will help ensure we can stage more events next year. “Dig In” the greengrocers at 229 Church Rd also have a collection tin for us should you like to make a contribution. Many thanks to the owners for their help.

Those of you who travel along Troopers Hill Road regularly cannot have failed to notice the somewhat desolate look of the area where recent work has been carried out on the side of the Hill. The work involved removing the fence which was holding back five truck-loads of earth that was in danger of collapsing onto the road. At the same time, over-hanging trees were cut back to reduce the danger to traffic. The “pollarding” of trees encourages root growth that will help bind the remaining soil together, preventing further collapse. They will also grow new shoots and recover. The bank will green up well in the Spring with the bramble and plants that remain, and new bushes are due to be planted courtesy of a grant from the Neighbourhood Partnership (NP). Many thanks to them for their help. You can help influence the development of St George by attending their Forum meetings. See diary for the next Forum meeting.

Once again we are approaching the Season of Goodwill and the weather is certainly letting us know it. White Christmas? Maybe. In any case, all of us at the Friends of Troopers Hill would like to wish you all



A Very Happy Christmas

Good News on Grants

At this year's AGM we heard that we have been successful in the first stage of an application to Groundwork UK for funding from the National Lottery through their Community Spaces Scheme. The Stage 1 application was for an estimated project value of £32,320 and was submitted with the support of Bristol Parks.

The main aim of this project is to improve the various flights of steps on Troopers Hill to make them easier for people to use. As you will know some of the steps are so high that many people prefer to walk up the slope beside them instead of using the steps. This is an issue that has been raised many times in the past and something we have been hoping to address from the time Friends of Troopers Hill was established in 2003.

Another part of the project is to address some of the issues with mud on Troopers Hill Field. We are also hoping to introduce some form of waymarking for the paths in the woodland and we will be asking for views on the design.

The project now has to go through the second stage assessment and we have to submit an application by 31 May 2011. There is no guarantee that we will receive any grant at the end of the process but it is good news to get through the first stage.

There is a special page on our website which gives more details and will be updated as the project progresses, it can be seen at

www.troopers-hill.org.uk/SteppingForward.htm

Rob Acton-Campbell

ABC of Troopers Hill

H is for Hawthorn.

Hawthorn trees flower in spring (May blossom) and bear bright crimson berries (haws) in autumn. Also called 'quickthorn' because it grows fast, Hawthorn is common in hedges surrounding fields where livestock are kept. Hawthorn was among the native species supplied by the Council for the Greendown hedge, planted by Friends in 2006. Hawthorn is controlled elsewhere on Troopers Hill: if allowed to mature, the trees would overshadow and compete with the LNR's characteristic acid heathland flora.

Next instalment: H is also for Heather !

Bryn Friallen

Family Fun Dog Show—10th October 2010



TreeBristol and Troopers Hill Field

Several people have contacted Friends of Troopers Hill asking about planting trees in Troopers Hill Field, so we have been talking to Bristol City Council's TreeBristol Officer. TreeBristol (www.bristol.gov.uk/treebristol) is a scheme aiming to plant 10,000 trees across Bristol. It will be done partly through offering tree sponsorship packages.

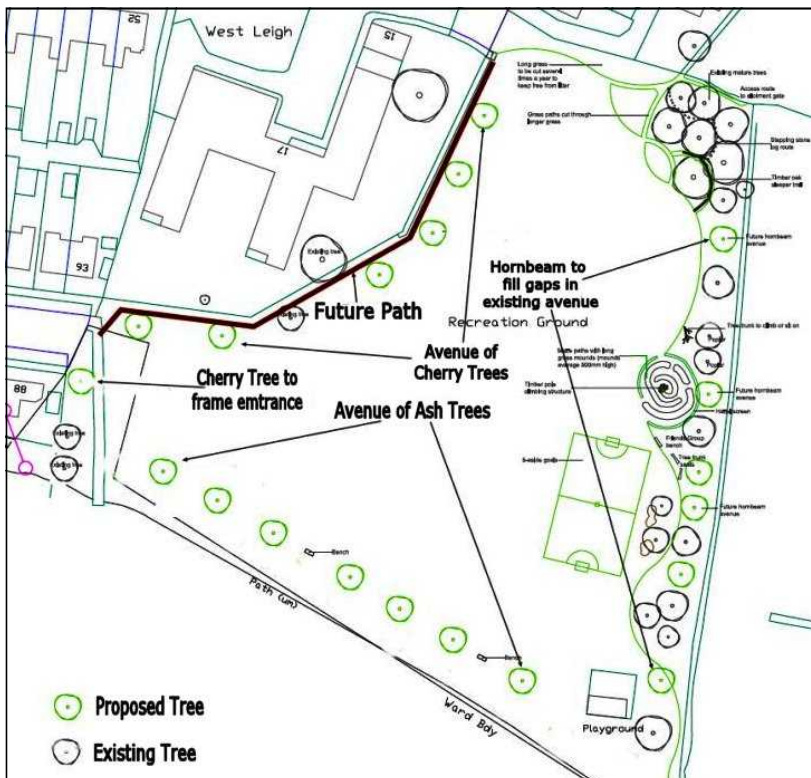
TreeBristol have drawn up a draft plan for

ment fence, six hornbeams are planned to fill in the gaps in the existing avenue.

A community planting event will be held in Troopers Hill Field on Thursday 20th January. All are welcome to help plant the trees. If you would like to comment on the plans or want more details about the event please contact the TreeBristol Officer via email at treebristol@bristol.gov.uk or phone her on 0117 352 5638.

Friends of Troopers Hill would like to set up a gazebo and provide hot drinks on the planting day. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact Susan on 0117 947 5037.

Susan Acton-Campbell



Troopers Hill Field. See - www.troopers-hill.org.uk/field.htm#trees. Currently the idea is to plant seven non-seeding ash trees at the top of the bank that features the red benches, providing an avenue of trees alongside the track leading from Malvern Rd to the slide. At this level, they should not interfere with sight lines from the field. Six cherry trees will be planted alongside the beech hedge bounding Westleigh Nursing Home and will provide a beautiful show of blossom in spring. They will be planted far enough away from the hedge so that there will be room for a possible future path linking Summerhill Terrace and Malvern Rd. A seventh cherry tree is shown planted on the other side of the Malvern Rd entrance, so there will be a cherry tree on each side of the entrance. Alongside the allot-

WALKING IMPROVES YOUR HEALTH ...but it takes a bit of organising...

'Walking for Health Bristol' (WFH) is a program which provides people with the opportunity to take part in short, safe and sociable walks within local communities. It is part of a nationwide scheme and there have been groups set up around a number of areas in Bristol. Some of you may already know about it – in November Susan led an enjoyable and informative walk on Troopers Hill for the newly formed Brislington WFH group.

Walking for Health groups have now been set up in a number of areas locally,

but not yet in St George! I set about finding out whether there were enough people around who would be interested and quickly found quite a number, especially among older people and mothers with young children. The committee of Friends of Troopers Hill enthusiastically backed the idea of putting in a bid for funding a "Health Walks Officer" from Bristol City Council. The officer would do the groundwork for setting a group up. We will hear by late January whether this bid, to Active Bristol, has been successful. If it hasn't, we have other ideas about who to approach next!

My name is Clare Willott and I have been asked to join the committee of FoTH as the lead person in getting this project off the ground. If you are interested in hearing more, please ring me on 0117 941 4514. I'll be keeping you up to date with regular bulletins in 'The Hill'. Watch this space!

Claire Willott

Stay safe and secure this Christmas

Safety tips from the Safer Bristol Partnership:

Do not put Christmas presents in front windows at home - burglars go window shopping too

Do not advertise to burglars that you have lots of expensive new gadgets. Only put packaging out for recycling on the morning of your collection

Make sure you have locked all doors and windows at home when you go out or before going to bed

Register all expensive items on: www.immobilise.com

Do not leave Christmas purchases visible in your car - lock them safely in the boot

Do not carry too many purchases at any one time - you may be more vulnerable if your hands are not free

Be careful when using cash dispensing machines - check who is around

Fit smoke detectors or replace the batteries in your existing ones

Do not leave candles unattended

Make sure all Christmas lights are off before you go to bed

Friends of Troopers Hill: Dates for your Diary

Saturday January 8th: Work Party. 10 am—midday. Meet at corner of Troopers Hill Road and Greendown. *Start the year by helping us look after Troopers Hill. Gentle exercise and a bit of a laugh over some coffee.*

Thursday 13th January: Meeting. 7.15pm, Summerhill Methodist Church, 5 Air Balloon Road. *Come along and share your views on our Local Nature Reserve.*

Thursday January 20th: Tree Planting. Troopers Hill Field. *Join "Tree Bristol" and help plant some new trees on the Field.*

Saturday February 5th: Work Party. As January 8th.

Thursday March 3rd: Meeting. As 13th January.

Saturday March 5th: Work Party. As January 8th.

Tuesday 22nd March: 7pm. Air Balloon Primary School, Hillside Rd, BS5 7PB. Neighbourhood Partnership Forum. *Have your say about neighbourhood issues. If you don't join in, you can't complain.*

Saturday March 26th: 11am—2pm. Come and see us at the St George Community Fair. St. Aidan's and St George Church and Hall. Nicholas Lane BS5

Jules's Diary

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

Well, lots of movement of The Hill since my last missive. Bits of it heading straight down, it seemed, cured by a rather large digger, some concrete and a bit of nifty turf laying all courtesy of the National Coal Board... who knew they still existed? Ah, the Ghost of Scargills past!

Other bits Heading East towards... the road, courtesy of other diggers. (Hopefully not Mining Bees! Imagine!?) Talking of which, I wonder what the results of those surveys revealed? Do they suffer from Jill Archer's "Lurgy"? All looks a bit sparse and bare at the moment but will soon green up come the Spring.

Back to Movement... 'Tis the Season to be moving, hopefully jollily, snow and icy roads permitting, visiting friends and relatives, dropping off presies and 'last minute cards' epic journeys to the supermarket to "stock up" &c. Wonder if this Christmas will be a white one? Only a bit of snow so far, barely enough to slide down the hill on a plastic storage box lid. Cold enough though! Whatever happened to Global Warming and where is it when it's needed?

Me? I'm Bah Humbug!-erring off for an anti-christmas to the snowy hills of my usual end of year haunts, non Christmas dinnering, and admittedly downing a few drams, in support of the Yamaa Trust (<http://www.yamaatrust.com/>)... (Yak butter rather than the usual brandy variety).

However you're spending your Yule Tide Season "Ave a Good Un!" as they do say 'round yere. And see you on the Hill next year (by which time our doggie-bag supply should be replenished).

Merry Crimble!

jules

Contacts

For the latest news and updates, phone our Information line: 0753 161 5983

If you'd like to talk to us, please contact:

Susan Acton-Campbell (Chair),
Tel. 0117 947 5037

You can also write to us at:

3, Corkers Hill, St. George, Bristol, BS5 8DT
Email:

friends@troopers-hill.org.uk

Or go to the online forum at:

<http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/forum.html>

To book a place on an event,

Phone Judith: 0117 955 9819 Or email:

events2011@troopers-hill.org.uk

To report incidents on Troopers Hill, phone Bristol Parks: 0117 922 3719

Report criminal activity to the police on 999

or

Police local beat manager, Pete Crawford, can be contacted on 07919628304