



Friends of
Troopers Hill

newsletter

April 2004 issue2

ABOUT THIS GROUP

We have been meeting since last October. We are a voluntary group of local residents who want to help keep the Hill clean and tidy. New members are always very welcome at our monthly meetings (**27th April at Bristol East Allotments Pavilion** and then **26th May at St Aidans Church Hall, side room, both 7-9pm**) and our regular, first Saturday in the month working parties, see below.

OUR WORKING PARTIES

So far 18 of us have done all sorts of work on the Hill. We have picked up a lot of litter, cleared brambles, improved some of the steps and put in a new gatepost to rehang the gate half way up Troopers Hill Road. There's plenty more to do though and on **Saturday, April 3rd at 10.00 am we will be meeting at the Greendown entrance for a Spring Cleaning Session on the Hill.** Please come along if you are interested but don't forget to wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

MONEY!

First the bad news – we haven't got any yet! The good news though is that we are applying to several groups for grants to help us with our aims for the Hill over the next five years. We intend to buy some equipment if and when we get some funding but until then we are having to beg and borrow what we use on our working parties.

NEW BENCHES

One of the things we want to spend money on if we get some is improving the two seats currently on the Hill and buying some new ones as well. If you feel strongly about where these should be positioned to catch the best views or to provide timely rest and recuperation please come along and join in so you can tell us what you think.

COMING EVENTS

If you've ever wondered what kinds of bird make what kinds of song then come and find out on the Hill for free at the **DAWN CHORUS WALK** Saturday, 24th April at 7 am – meet at the Malvern Road entrance to the Hill.

TALK ON LOCAL BIRDS

The Dawn Chorus Walk will be preceded by an evening meeting with an expert on local birdsong to be held at the Bristol East Allotments Pavilion (on the south side of St Aidans Church) at **7.30 pm on Thursday 22/4/04**. Free entrance.

On **Sunday June 6th 2004** there will be a guided walk along the local parts of the Avon Trail including Troopers Hill and taking in Dundry Park and Conham Vale, contact Rob for details.

More events are planned, details will follow in later newsletters.

DOG WALKERS ALERT

Bristol City Council have got funding for one or possibly two more dog bins on the Hill. We think they should put the first one just inside the Greendown entrance onto the Hill. If you have any strong views about this, where to put the second one or the continued problem of dog mess on the Hill please register your views with us. Or better still come along to the next meeting and join in.

We desperately need your old garden tools to help us clean up the Hill – contact Rob on 0117 9475037 if you have anything that may be useful

HISTORY GROUP SUCCESS

The group looking into the History of the Hill held a meeting on 25th February. The meeting was very well attended and a lot of people contributed to our deepening understanding of how the Hill came to look as it does today. It is hoped to have future meetings with invited speakers who will be able to tell us more about the industrial activities that have left their mark on the Hill. Watch this space for further details!

There is a chance that the group might get some money from English Nature for something like a booklet, a plaque or a video that could record what we know about the History. If you have views on how this should be spent please let us know.

NEW SIGN BOARDS

One of our aims for the money that we hope to get in the next few months is to get some new information boards (the Council calls them Interpretation Boards!). These will be placed in positions around the Hill where they will explain to the visitor how the Hill was used in the past and what rare and interesting wildlife and plants the Hill has living on it today.

If you have any ideas about what things these boards should say and where they should be placed please let us know or come along to one of the meetings or working parties on the Hill.

THE WEBSITE

Please visit this at www.troopers-hill.org.uk as a lot of work is being done on it at the moment and we're very proud of it! You will soon see various pictures of the Hill there.

CONTACTS

If you want to contact us about issues raised in this newsletter or anything else please use the list below.

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The boss!

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GETTING INVOLVED

The Friends of Troopers Hill does not charge membership fees and does not have a formal membership. Our meetings and events are open to everyone with an interest in Troopers Hill or its surroundings. If you wish to receive future editions of this newsletter and are not on our mailing list please let Susan or Virginia have your details. These details will only be used for sending you information about Friends of Troopers Hill and will not be passed to any third party.

HELP US TO CONTACT YOU

If you have an email address, please help us to save money and paper by sending your email address to Virginia, our membership secretary. All future news will then be sent to you by email.

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