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The Friends of Troopers Hill

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Autumn 2011



No need to panic. We have it on the best of authority — Ray the steeplejack — that our chimney is not falling down. It seems that after the recent storms it was reported to the Council that the top had blown off the stack. Hence those of you that were on the hill around 15th of September may have

noticed a ladder being attached to the side and Ray ascending to check out the top. All was well he has reported. There was no obvious damage and he took the opportunity to check the rest of the chimney while he was at it.

You may also have noticed a car on top of the Hill recently. This was there by previous agreement and was being used by the cast and crew for a scene in the popular E4 youth drama "Skins". They have visited us before and, having kindly contacted us in advance, are making a generous donation to our funds as a goodwill gesture.

Sadly, we had to cancel our first Forest Club sessions in August. However, we have rescheduled for Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th October, 10 — 11.45 am each day. There are a few places still available, so if you want to book one for your 7 — 9 year old kids, please give Susan a call. Details in contact panel.



We had a difficult call to make for Music on the Hill this year. The weather had been very unpredictable all week and even on the day was looking uncertain. In the end, we went ahead with the concert despite the

rather breezy conditions. The [Gasworks Singers](#) turned up en masse and gave a terrific and spirited performance. Many had never been to the Hill before and were blown away (almost literally) by the view. The sun even came out to say thank you at the end.

Don't forget to bring your pet along to our [dog show](#) this year. Sunday, 9th October and [judging starts](#) at 2 pm. As usual, it will be taking place in Troopers Hill Field and we look forward to seeing all you dog lovers there. The theme for the fancy dress class this year is "Best Halloween Dog", so there's lots of scope!

Friends can now join us on Facebook



The Friends of Troopers Hill website went live this summer.

So why do we need a Facebook page? What is Facebook and what is it used for?

What is Facebook?

Facebook is a free Social networking website. It was founded in the United States in 2004. Millions of people use [Facebook](#) everyday to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet. Everyone can sign up for an account and can put as much, or as little, personal information on their profile as they wish.

Why do Friends of Troopers Hill need a Facebook page?

A few years ago every company was rushing to create their own website and now all the major companies have large media departments using every method possible to advertise. This includes Facebook and [Twitter](#). Non personal pages can be set up for business or commercial use. Individuals can then 'like' (and thereby promote) pages they are interested in.

The advantage of Friends of Troopers Hill using Facebook is that everyone who 'likes' the page will get updates every time something is posted on the Wall or a new event is created. Any last minute changes to events can immediately be communicated via this medium. Everyone who 'likes' the page can also write on the wall and post photos. This also opens up a direct channel for answering any queries or questions people who use the hill may have.

How do I sign up and get more information?

Click on the Facebook page link from the Friends of Troopers hill website or sign up here:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Troopers-Hill/163636910367366?sk=wall>

Jackie Ames-Farrow

One "Summer" Day in August



Family Fun Picnic

www.troopers-hill.org.uk

Undiscovered Brislington

www.discoverbrislingtonbrook.wordpress.com

There's a secret world right in the middle of Brislington. Wedged unassumingly between densely crowded streets, the Brislington Brook corridor is a lush, green, wooded valley, hidden away from the hustle and bustle of city life. It feels like a lost and forgotten land, often unknown by many of the people who live close by and brimming with discoveries to be made.

The Brislington Community Partnership (BCP) has received 3 years funding from the Heritage Lottery and Bristol City Council (BCC) for an exciting new community project. "Discover Brislington Brook" aims to bring the river to life and enable people to discover its history and wildlife through fun activities, walks, talks and events.



The river runs through Whitchurch, Stockwood, Brislington and St Annes, connecting these communities and acting as an invaluable wildlife corridor. As well as its great environmental value the brook has a fascinating history, the remains of which are evident everywhere; ranging from St Anne's Holy Well - a 13th century pilgrimage site; to the remnants of a Victorian pleasure garden.

Ecologically, the stream plays a vital role; a recent wildlife survey even found evidence of otters! Other creatures spotted include kingfishers, dippers, bats, owls, badgers and deer.

There'll be many opportunities to join in; from river clear-ups to a performance recreating the Pilgrim's Way. The first event is a bat themed fun day and evening story walk aimed at local people and families on Wednesday 26th October, 2:00-6:30pm at the Wicklea Centre on Wick Rd.

If you're interested or want to find out more, get in touch with me on 07737 344 318 or:

rowan.matthiessen@bristol.gov.uk

Rowan Matthiessen

The Friends of Troopers Hill Family Fun Dog Show

2011

All classes free

Judging starts at 2 pm

Sunday 9th October

Troopers Hill Field, Malvern Road

Classes:

- 1 Prettiest Bitch
- 2 Most Handsome Dog
- 3 Cutest Puppy
- 4 Best Sit and Shake Paws
- 5 Best Child Handler (under 12)
- 6 Waggiest Tail
- 7 Best Stay and Come
- 8 Best Halloween Dog

Kindly sponsored by Beeses Bar and Tea Gardens:
www.beeses.co.uk
and Lucas Vets:
www.lucasvets.co.uk

Prizes & Rosettes
given up to 3rd place

Come and compete
in our Fun Scurry



www.troopers-hill.org.uk

Friends of Troopers Hill Dates for your Diary

Saturday Oct 1st: Work Party. 10am—midday. Meet at Troopers Hill Road and Greendown. *Help us look after Troopers Hill. Gentle exercise and a bit of a laugh over some coffee.*

Sunday Oct 9th: Family Fun Dog Show. 2—4.30pm. *A fun event on Troopers Hill Field for dogs of all shapes and sizes. Free entry to all classes. See inside.*

Sunday Oct 30th: Fungi Foray. 10.30am. *Join expert Justin Smith in a hunt for mushrooms and toadstools on Troopers Hill. Booking essential for this event.*

Saturday Nov 5th: Work Party. *As Oct 1st.*

Thursday Nov 10th: Meeting. 7.15pm, Summerhill Methodist Church, 5 Air Balloon Road. *Come along and share your views on our Local Nature Reserve.*

Saturday Dec 3rd: Work Party. *As Oct 1st.*

Thursday Dec 8th: Slide Show Review of 2011. 7.15—9pm. Summerhill Methodist Church, 5 Air Balloon Road. *Join us for a slide show of the year's events, followed by our AGM.*

Troopers Hill Awarded Green Flag— Again

For the fifth year in succession, Troopers Hill has again been awarded a [Green Flag](#). Several Friends were present at St Andrews Park, who were awarded a flag for the first time, along with representatives of Netham Park, Blaise Castle Estate, Queen's Square, St Paul's Park, Ashton Court Estate and the Downs to receive our flag. The Hill remains the first and only Nature Reserve in Bristol to be awarded this coveted distinction.

ABC of Troopers Hill

J is for Julian (also known as Jules), who is employed by Bristol Council Parks department to look after Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve. He spends two days a week, on average, on the Hill, the remainder of his time is shared with Eastwood Farm and Callington Road LNRs. Among other things, he takes care of strimming and mowing, path clearing, fence mending and waste disposal. He also deals with the huge sacks of bramble, prunings and other vegetation that result from Friends' conservation work parties.

Friends of Troopers Hill hold Jules in high esteem for his understanding of the terrain, plants and animals living on the Hill, and his sympathetic and imaginative management of the site for human access and enjoyment. He solves problems, and provides expert advice and guidance on the best use of Friends' volunteer hours in achieving the aims in the Troopers Hill management plan <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/plan.htm>. In 2009 Jules (with his Bristol Parks colleague Oli) received a 'Thanks for supporting the sector' award from VOSCUR ([Voluntary Organisations Standing Conference on Urban Regeneration](#)) - the principal voluntary body co-ordinator for Bristol.

In his own time, Jules is keen on the dramatic arts (especially Shakespeare), is a sponsor of the Tobacco Factory theatre, and is involved in bringing the benefits of drama and literature to young people. Jules' birthday falls in September, so we send him thanks for all his endeavours along with our very best wishes. Happy birthday Jules !

Bryn Friallen

Jules's Diary

Hello Troopers!

A couple of interesting days on The Hill recently. First, erroneous reports of the chimney being damaged by the high winds resulting in an inspection and ladders clamped to the sides as I type, followed by a film crew in evidence the next day. Film company attracted by the amazing views across the city. Those of us who can recall Eddie Shoestring recumbent on a bench below Cabot Tower may wonder at this filmic fixation with hills and phallic symbols but time moves on, this time it was two young people sitting on the roof of a car, feet dangling down the windscreen having a chat.

More interestingly, Carol and I saw a group of five buzzards dancing with the wind above the valley.

On to the "other sites" as (previously) promised. Just across the river, via the bridge over to St Annes, lies [St Anne's Woods](#) and Nightingale Valley, through which flows the pretty (or it soon will be) [Brislington Brook](#) on its way from Stockwood to the Avon. The route of a mediaeval, pilgrimage path, it holds the remains of St Anne's Well, visited by [Elizabeth of York](#), daughter of Edward IV, sister-in-law (and some claim potential bride of) Richard III, and wife at the time to Henry VII. She was seeking St Anne's blessing for a long and healthy life for her unborn first son [Arthur](#). Hmmm... students of history will know how that turned out!

The brook itself, and its surroundings, are about to get a Reformation of their own thanks to an enthusiastic Project Officer. It already has a Blog (<http://discoverbrislingtonbrook.wordpress.com/>). Kingfishers are frequently seen, by the quiet walker, 'er & I had one underfly the packhorse bridge, beside the mediaeval ford, as we were crossing it. Iridescent is the only description!

Cheers

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/news&views>

To book a place on an event,
Phone Judith: 0117 955 9819 Or email:
events2011@troopers-hill.org.uk

[Walking for Health](#) (St George Strollers)
Contact: Clare Willott
0117 941 4514

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
07919 628 304