



Friends of
Troopers Hill

newsletter

February 2004

Last Work Party:

Following on from a litter picking work-party in October and fence mending session on Greendown in December, January's work-party painted wood preservative on the fence facing Greendown. Materials were supplied by Bristol Council.

Plans for Next Work Party

This will be on **Saturday 7th February 2004**, from **10am until noon**. All to meet corner of Greendown and Troopers Hill Rd. It will involve bramble clearance in an area where broom, a rare plant in this area, is being threatened. Please come and help. Although some gloves and tools will be available, if possible, please bring your own thorn-proof gloves and suitable tools to cut back the brambles e.g. secateurs. Old, warm clothing and sensible footwear are a must.

Another work party will be held on **Saturday 14th February**, from **10am until noon**. This will be to re-hang the gate on Troopers Hill Road.

Children are very welcome on work parties but must be accompanied by a responsible adult who will supervise them at all times.

5 year Work Party Plan

Rob, our work party organiser has made a list of tasks taken from the feedback to the Troopers Hill Visitor Survey made in 2002/2003 by Sally Oldfield. He is developing this list into a 5-year plan. A copy of the current list can be obtained from the work party organiser. If you have any ideas for work/improvements that need adding to this list please let us know.

Work from Bristol Council

There are currently tight budget constraints on what can be done by Bristol Council. It is hoped that funding can be made available to improve existing benches, repair kissing gates on the Hill, prevent motorcycle access to Malvern Road Playing Field, and put in at least one dog bin this year.

It is the intention of this group to do its best to make sure that the Hill gets a fair share of the available money and that it is spent wisely.

Sometimes prompt action can be really effective! Thanks are particularly due to Gary Ratcliffe, who is the Parks Manager with responsibility for Troopers Hill. Just after Christmas he took time off from his holiday to come and mend the vandalised gate at the Malvern Road Playing Field entrance to the Hill. Some of the Friends group had noticed the appearance of scramble bikes on the Hill, which were coming through via the damaged gate. Gary's swift response to their calls meant that all this was stopped before the Hill was damaged. Thank you Gary!

Contact with Other Groups

Contact has been made with the Dundry Park Group and St George Partnership. It is hoped that we can help each other with advice, tools and resource sharing.

Funding

An application is being put together to apply for funding from Awards for All England (www.awardsforall.org.uk) which is Lottery based.

This will be for money to cover the tools and materials for the first year of work. If you can offer your help, tools, materials or money please contact us.

Depending on the result of this application, other funding bodies may be approached.

History of Troopers Hill

Meeting at St Aidans Church Hall (side room) Wednesday 25th February 7pm – 9pm.

We have organised an evening for people to share their knowledge of the history of Troopers Hill. If you have books, documents, photos, pictures, maps about Troopers Hill please bring them along. Later in the year we would like to organise a similar session about the wildlife and geology of Troopers Hill.

Events on Troopers Hill - Dawn Chorus:

On **Thursday 22nd April at 7.30pm** there will be an evening preparatory talk at the The Bristol East Allotments Pavilion on birds you will probably hear during the

Dawn Chorus Walk on Troopers Hill on Saturday, 24th April at 7am!!!!!!

This is advertised in the new Bristol Council pamphlet "Park Life" – a very colourful and useful booklet detailing all the

latest Bristol Parks' news. It is available from Local Libraries or the Council Offices.

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, 12th Feb at 7 p.m.

Venue – St Aidans Church Hall, (behind the Church on Fir Tree Lane), **in the side room.** N.B. there will be other people in the main hall.

Please come and give your input to the next meeting.

Contacts list:

Chair:

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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 SAVE MONEY

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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.