



**Friends of
Troopers Hill**

newsletter

Feb. 2005

HILL TO BE ALLOTTED FARM?

At a recent meeting Friends were given a preview of plans to open a City Farm on some of the run down allotments between the Hill and Air Balloon Road. The farm would be quite small but it would be run in the same sort of way as the bigger Farms at Windmill Hill and St Werburghs so there would be plenty of opportunities for local children to join in the fun. To begin with they would have rare chickens, a pig, an orchard and a small visitor centre. At the moment it is only an idea so there is plenty of time to say what you think of the plan. Fern Jane, the leader of the Farm Group has asked if he might rent the allotments nearest to the playing fields at the end of Malvern Road. The Bristol East Allotment Association are thinking about his proposal at the moment.

The Friends were sure that in principle the farm was a good idea but were worried about how people, particularly those in cars, would get to and from the site. If you have any views on this issue please speak to one of us and let us know

what you think. If you look over the page you will see how to get hold of us.

VIRGINIA SPALDING

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Virginia, one of the founder members of the Friends of Troopers Hill. She was only 50 years old when she died on December 7th 2004 after a short, very bravely faced. illness, Her cheery company will be sadly missed on work parties, as will her sharp mind and thoughtful contributions to committee meetings. We won't forget you, or your work Virginia!

LOOKING BACK TO 2004

At the Friends AGM held on 14th December people who attended were treated to a slide and video show about the many events and milestones on the Hill during the previous year. The lottery grant, the work parties, the new gates and fencing, the story of the hilltop seat, the notice boards as well as the many events were all covered. Everybody there agreed that we had all done very well. Kit Elliott who made the

videos shown at the meeting and Rob Acton-Campbell who made and presented the slide show were given a round of applause for all their hard work. At the end of the meeting both Susan (our Chairperson) and her husband Rob were thanked by everyone for their tireless work on behalf of the Hill during the year.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2005

This coming year may well be busier still if all the events planned go ahead. Amongst other things there will be another Dawn Chorus Walk in May, a Fete and Dog Show hopefully in June, a night time Moth Hunt in late June and a Fungal Foray in October with a toadstool expert called Justin Smith who is appearing on BBC 2 with Bill Oddie on Friday, February 25th 8 pm!

Keen walkers amongst you might also like to note that a series of guided walks to other Local Nature Reserves are taking place during this time. For more information phone Sally Oldfield – see over for telephone number

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.troopers-hill.org.uk

SCHOOLBOYS' SHOES CLEANER!

Friends are responsible for schoolboys arriving at school with cleaner shoes according to one pupil in Year 7 at John Cabot School. At the last working party on Saturday January 21st woodchip was laid at the new Summer Hill Terrace entrance and this has been greeted very favourably by those dog owners, walkers and boys who pass through it regularly. The same people have probably also seen the new notice boards that have been put up by the same work parties at the entrances to the Hill. These boards have spaces on them for different notices that can be changed and they will be used to tell you all about the dates of future work parties which are always open to everyone that wants to come and lend a hand. Also the notice space might be used for A4 sized information sheets about the Hill's birds, plants, rocks and so on. With this in mind we will be having a competition with prizes for the best information sheets later in the spring. Anybody can enter and there will be 3 categories: primary age children, secondary school children, and adults. Details of how to enter this competition will appear in the next newsletter or they can be found shortly on our new, improved website at www.troopers-hill.org.uk

THE MALVERN ROAD OPEN SPACE

As reported in an earlier newsletter a group of Friends and local residents have been meeting over the last few months to talk about what should be done with the playground and the space in general. They are concerned that at the moment it is not cared for and in particular the play equipment is almost unusable. Obviously we need to deal with the problem of vandalism if we are to improve this situation. The group talking about this area are in the process of printing a questionnaire for about 1000 local households to find out your views. It will be sent out to you soon. Please fill it in and send it back.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

Susan Acton-Campbell
chair@troopers-hill.org.uk
Tel. 0117 947 5037 or write to 3, Corkers Hill, St. George, Bristol, BS5 8DT.

**Bristol Council Local
Nature Reserves Officer:**
Sally Oldfield
sally_oldfield@bristol-city.gov.uk
Tel. 0117 922 4429

GETTING INVOLVED

You could of course come to one of our meetings, every one is welcome. The next one is on **Thursday, February 24th 7pm at the Wesley Memorial Church Hall on Bryants Hill.**

Or, you could come along to one of our work parties on the Hill which take place on the **first Saturday of every month at 10am.** The information on the new notice boards on the Hill will provide more detail about dates and meeting places.

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 have your details. We will not pass your details onto any one else.

If you have an email address, please help us to save money and paper by sending your email address to membership@troopers-hill.org.uk. All future news will then be sent to you by email.

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