



Friends of
Troopers Hill

newsletter June issue3

GROUP GETS GRANTS

Awards For All grant

Friends of Troopers Hill have recently received £3,269 from Awards For All which is a Lottery based scheme. The award gives us money to spend on tools, noticeboards, publicity, first aid courses and protective equipment as well as a small amount for educational purposes. We have already bought nearly £500 of tools which we will be using at our monthly working party sessions on the Hill (see later report for dates and times of these events). We will tell you more about how the rest of the money gets spent in later issues.

English Nature grant

The group has access to a grant of up to £1,500 by English Nature's Wildspace! Scheme. It may be used for making a video about the Hill and to fund some sort of artwork that recalls the industrial history of the site on the Hill. Discussions are underway at the moment about what this should be. Ideas so far considered

include a timeline, a sculpture, a plaque and an inscription on natural stone. If you have any suggestions then please come along to one of our meetings (see the end of the sheet for details of where and when we meet)

Launch of the Action Plan

For some time now Rob, our Work Party organiser, has been writing a five year Action Plan which lays out what we hope to do over the coming years to make the Hill more accessible to everyone and a better place for its animals and plants. He has now finished it! There is to be an official launch of the Plan on **Wednesday, June 9th**. The Plan will be signed by the Chair of the Friends of Troopers Hill, Susan Acton-Campbell and, hopefully, Peter Wilkinson, who is Head of Bristol Parks. The signing will take place at 7pm at the Chimney on top of the Hill. Please come along if you would like to take part in a small bit of local history! Once the plan has been signed you will be able to download a copy from

www.troopers-hill.org.uk. Printed copies will also be available from Rob. The plan will be reviewed and updated every year so there is still an opportunity for you to have your say.

Butterfly and Bugs Walk

We have organised another walk across the Hill for **Saturday, June 12th**. It will start at 2pm from the Malvern Road gate. Rupert Higgins, a local expert in Natural History will be leading the Walk and as part of the event nets will be provided so that children (and adults!) can catch some of the bugs on the Hill and have them identified. A display will be provided on the Hill before, during and after the Walk showing how the grant money is to be spent and everyone is welcome to come and have a look. Light refreshments will be on sale with the profits going to help the group with the upkeep of the Hill. Members of the group will also be bringing along picnics so that the afternoon can be pleasantly extended at the end of the Walk. Please feel free to join

us but bring your own sandwiches and G&Ts!

New Dog Bin installed

A brand new dog bin has been put at the Greendown entrance to the Hill and it is already being used by some of the site's many dog owners. Thanks are due to Gary Ratcliffe whose persistence with the Council has produced this positive development. It is hoped that everyone who walks their dogs on the Hill will be careful about picking up their dog mess as the Hill is heavily used at weekends by children. The disease *toxicara canis*, which can lead to blindness in children, is spread by contact with dog poo so we all need to be careful when taking out dogs out to enjoy the Hill.

Hilltop seat destroyed by fire

A fire has destroyed the seat that was put by the chimney on the top of the Hill as a result of a bequest. If anyone knows anything about how this blaze happened and in particular can identify the individuals responsible then please contact us using the phone numbers below. This seems to be yet another example of mindless vandalism and we need to act together as local residents to stop this kind of thing happening.

Future meetings and Working Parties

The next working party is on **Saturday, June 5th at 10.00am** Volunteers to meet by the Greendown gate. Please come along and try out our new tools.

The working party due to meet on 3rd July has been rescheduled for **Thursday July 8th at 7pm** Volunteers please meet by the Greendown gate.

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, July 6th at 7pm** and will be at 3, Corkers Hill – just off Niblets Hill. New members are very welcome so if you think we ought to do something differently please come along and have your say!

The meeting after that is **Thursday 5th August at 7pm**. Please contact Susan for venue details.

How to contact us

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

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

Val Harris
treasurer@troopers-hill.org.uk

David Gladden
secretary@troopers-hill.org.uk
newsletter issues

Works Party Organiser:
Rob Acton-Campbell
works@troopers-hill.org.uk
working party issues

Research Co-ordinator:
Carole Edwards
info@troopers-hill.org.uk

Membership Secretary:
Virginia Spalding
membership@troopers-hill.org.uk

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

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.