



Friends of
Troopers Hill

newsletter Oct. 2004

SEAT SAYS THANK YOU

The vandalised bench on the top of the Hill has been repaired after well wishers donated nearly £400 to put it right. So much money was given in fact that there is cash to spare and this will be used to help erect seats in other places on the hillside. The bench which has been recently penning its own thank you notes has been temporarily repaired with wooden slats but a more permanent repair in metal will follow in due course. Sadly the metal plate which commemorated the life of Phyllis Gay (nee Roby) whose bequest paid for the original bench will not be going back as her daughter fears its eventual loss if the vandals return.

The Friends of Troopers Hill (see bottom of newsletter for contact details) would love to hear from anyone who has views on where new seats should be placed on the hillside.

PIED PIPER ON THE HILL

August 13th will perhaps not be remembered for providing the best weather of this

summer but nonetheless it might be recalled as the afternoon the Hill came alive with a trail of youngsters following a story teller around the Hill. Martin Maudsley came to tell a story using the Hill and the children's own ideas for inspiration as part of the laid on amusements for the **Family Fun Picnic** that afternoon. A small crowd of about 30 children and their accompanying adults came to have a picnic and watch the expected mass ascent of balloons from Ashton Court early that evening. Colouring, quizzes and tasty snacks provided by the Friends kept the youngsters amused when they were not pursuing Martin across the Hill.

POSH NEW SIGNS

Those of you who walk across the Hill regularly will remember the old signs at the Greendown and Malvern Road entrances. Rob Acton-Campbell (one of the Friends) has designed a new sign which will be going up in various places on the Hill soon. The signs will tell people a little bit about the Hill, ask them to clear up after their dogs and to take care on the steep paths. There will also be a place to put up signs about the various events on the Hill and meetings

which the Friends organise from time to time. The signs are being paid for with the grant money which the Friends were given for this year from the Lottery.

STOPPING BIKERS!

At the Summerhill Road entrance to the Malvern Road open space a new fence and gateway has been built by the Council. This is because the bollards were not working to keep motorbikes off the field. The fence has a RADAR gate which can be used by wheelchair users to get onto the field.

Next on the list of urgently needed improvements is a new gateway at the Malvern Road entrance. Thoughts are also being given to a rustic gate onto the Hill from the Open Space but first money needs to be found to pay for it!

PLAYGROUND PROBLEMS

The Friends of Troopers Hill would like to see something done about the vandalised swings and slide on the Malvern Road Open Space but are uncertain about what to do for the best. It seems a great shame that local children do not have access to decent play equipment. But on the other hand Council

efforts to upgrade the playground in the past seem to have amused the vandals as much as the local children. Would it be best to take away this playground altogether? Might a wildflower meadow and a few trees be a better use of this space at this end of the field?

If you have strong views on any of these ideas please contact the Friends to register what you think (see below for ways of doing this). The Friends would be particularly interested in the opinions of anyone living in Malvern Road or Summerhill Terrace so let us know!

FESTIVAL OF NATURE

On **Saturday, October 9th** there will be a Launch Event for the Bristol Festival at the Council House in the city and the Friends of Troopers Hill are going to have a stall there. There will be a small display of photos and an illustrated presentation with descriptions of the work so far done on the Hill. If you are in town shopping please go along and say hello.

DOG POO SIGNS

Several dog signs have been recently put up on the Hill. They are the sort you see all over the place encouraging dog owners to pick up their dog's poo! There are a number of dog owners amongst the Friends group

and they say that the best bags to use to do this are nappy bags which are not only very cheap to buy but are also wonderfully perfumed. They make the task quite painless apparently! Dealing with dog poo is easier now because of the new dog bins but we still have a lot to do if the Hill is to be a really safe place for children to play. It's great to see some dog owners are not only using the new bins but are also picking up litter as they walk over the Hill.

FUTURE EVENTS

Working parties on the Hill happen on the first Saturday of every month and start at 10am until 12am. There will be working parties on **November 6th** and **December 4th**.

The next Friends meeting will be on **November 2nd** at **Wesley Memorial Church Hall, Bryants Hill**. Everyone is welcome!

The Friends AGM will be held on **December 14th** at the **Wesley Memorial Church Hall, Bryants Hill**. starting at 7pm. There will be refreshments, slides and videos of what has been happening on the Hill over the last year. Please come along and take a look.

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.

Sally Oldfield
Bristol Council Local Nature Reserves Officer:
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.

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.