

**It's Your Neighbourhood  
Friends of Troopers Hill  
ENTRY NUMBER 31**

**Contact:- Susan Acton Campbell -**

**2011 – Assessment 8<sup>th</sup> July - Report**

Met Susan Acton-Campbell & other friends members. Troopers Hill is a local Nature Reserve of over 20 acres, the group came together in 2003 and currently has 300 members. They work closely with Local Nature Officer, and carry out monthly working parties such as litter picking, which compliment the work of the Community Park Keeper Julian Thomas, who is also a major contributor to the project. 86 social events have taken place, such as a dog show, bat walks, dawn chorus and other social activities. Over 20 species of butterfly and 300 species of invertebrates have been identified, as well as two species of heather – Bell Heather & Ling. Much of the site is constructed of pennant sandstone forming a superb natural landscape, with extensive views over the city and surrounding area. There is also a bench project, to re-instate vandalised benches. The group have strong links with local schools. Established native species hedge, planted to deter motorcyclists. Two species of heather – Bell Heather & Ling. Wild plum trees.

**Advice/Comments**

Blackthorn can overtake other species – take out leader to keep density of low growth. Be mindful of the bird-nesting season when works are being carried out. It was noted that there are dogs off leads, these could lead to issues around bird nesting season particularly at ground level, as there are limited tree/bush nesting sites available. Dog fouling was noticed as an issue throughout the site, it was felt that this should be addressed. Suggest dog bins with dog poo bag dispensers on site as apposed to just at entrances, to address this issue, Toxicara was also raised as an issue. Maybe these issues could be addressed through education at next Dog Show. All in all a very well managed friends group, members very keen to retain the site within its natural keeping. The friends group show immense passion and enthausian for preserving this site.