



# Events 2008



# Newsletter

Spring/Summer

Spring/Summer 2008

**Events** – All events are free of charge. However, unless otherwise stated, **booking is essential** as we may need to limit numbers. To book your place please email [sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk) or call 0117 922 44 29 [Sturdy footwear is recommended].

## APRIL

### Tree Gazing – Eastwood Farm

Wednesday 23rd April, 6pm to 7.30pm

Discover the fascinating world of trees with expert Tony Titchen. Meet: take the track into Eastwood Farm from Whitmore Avenue, Brislington. Meet at the bottom of the track.

### Through the seasons walk – Troopers Hill

Friday 25th April, 10.30am to 12.30pm

An enjoyable stroll to discover the history and the wildlife of Troopers Hill. Meet: at the end of Malvern Road in St. George.

### Early Bird Walk – Manor Woods Valley

Saturday 26th April, 7am to 9am

Learn all about the sights and sounds of our local birds with the help of bird expert Ed Drewitt.

Meet: behind Bishopsworth library on St. Peter's Rise.

### Herbal Walk – Narrowways

Tuesday 29th April, 6.30 – 8pm

Discover herbal remedies past and present with herbalists Julia Green and Sue Redfern.

Meet: by the community garden (next to the church) on Mina Road, St. Werburghs.

## MAY

### History around us in Manor Woods Valley

Thursday 1st May, 10am – 12 noon

Join Anton Bantock on a fascinating journey through time. Meet: behind Bishopsworth library on St. Peter's Rise.

### Woodland Walk – Badock's Wood

Wednesday 14th May, meet at 6.45 for 7pm

Featuring a lovely woodland, wildflower meadow and burial mound.

Meet: at Lakewood Road, Henleaze. To book contact Michael Powell at Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery on 9223143

### Forest Festival – Badock's Wood

Sunday 18th May, 11am to 4pm

Try your hand at traditional woodcrafts, enjoy storytelling, meet an owl or build a nest box! Fun for all ages throughout the day at this woodland celebration event.

Meet: Badock's Wood can be reached from Doncaster Road in Southmead or Lakewood Road in Henleaze. No booking required. For more information contact the Forest of Avon on 0117 9532141 or rowena.kenny@forestofavon.org.uk

### Tree Gazing – Narrowways

Tuesday 20th May, 6.30pm to 8pm

Discover the fascinating world of trees, with expert Tony Titchen.

Meet: by the community garden (next to the church) on Mina Road, St. Werburghs.

### The Magical Malago Adventure Day – Manor Woods Valley

Thursday 29th May, 10.30am to 3.30pm

Fun for children aged 5 to 10 years as we explore the wildlife of the River Malago and create some environmental art. Children under 8 years old need to be accompanied by an adult.

Meet: details provided on booking.

## JUNE

### Tai Chi on the Hill – Troopers Hill Field

Four sessions: Sunday 8th June, Sunday 29th June, Sunday 20th July, Sunday 10th August, 10am to 11.30am

The Bristol School of Tai Chi will lead some gentle outdoor exercise.

To book, please contact Rob or Susan, Friends of Troopers Hill, on 947 5037 or visit [www.troopers-hill.org.uk](http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk)

### Wildflower Walk – Manor Woods Valley

Thursday 12th June, 6.30pm to 8pm

Rupert Higgins will be our guide to the secret world of wildflowers and insects.

Meet: behind Bishopsworth library on St. Peter's Rise.

### Wildflower Walk – Narrowways

Tuesday 17th June, 6.30pm to 8pm

Learn all about wildflowers and insects with expert Rupert Higgins.

Meet: by the community garden (next to the church) on Mina Road, St. Werburghs.

### Wildflower Walk – Northern Slopes

Tuesday 24th June, 6pm to 7.30pm

Expert Mary Wood will introduce us to wildflowers and other wildlife of the slopes.

Meet: at the Northern Slopes arch on Wedmore Vale (near junction with Wingfield Road).

### Trouping the Hill (3pm) and Music on the Hill (6pm) – Troopers Hill

Saturday 28th June

Family fun as we go on a storytelling adventure to discover the secrets behind Troopers Hill! Followed at 6pm by music from the South Gloucestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra – bring a picnic. Troopers Hill can be reached via Malvern Road or Troopers Hill Road in St. George. No booking required.

## JULY

### Poetic Plants – Eastwood Farm

Thursday 17th July, 6.30pm to 8pm

Discover quirky facts, folklore and poetry as we take a guided walk round this riverside beauty spot with Julian Thomas.

Meet: take the track into Eastwood Farm from Whitmore Avenue, Brislington. Meet at the bottom of the track.

### Herbal Walk – Northern Slopes

Wednesday 23rd July, 6.30pm to 8pm

Discover the medicinal uses of wild plants, past and present with herbalist Max Drake.

Meet: at the Northern Slopes arch on Wedmore Vale (near junction with Wingfield Road).

### Through the seasons walk – Troopers Hill

Friday 25th July, 10.30am to 12.30pm

An enjoyable stroll to discover the history and the wildlife of Troopers Hill.

Meet: at the end of Malvern Road in St. George.

## AUGUST

### Bugs and Beasts Walk – Troopers Hill

Saturday 9th August at 4pm

Fun for all the family as Rupert Higgins leads a minibeast hunt. Troopers Hill can be reached via Malvern Road or Troopers Hill Road in St. George. No booking required. For more information, call Rob or Susan, Friends of Troopers Hill, on 947 5037 or visit [www.troopers-hill.org.uk](http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk)

### Summer Fair – Eastwood Farm

Sunday 31st August, 1pm to 5pm

Enjoy an afternoon by the river, with story telling, pond dipping and other family fun!

Meet: to get to Eastwood Farm, take the track from Whitmore Avenue in Brislington. No booking required.

## SEPTEMBER

### Bat Walk – Badock's Wood

Thursday 4th September, 7.30pm-9pm

Come bat detecting with Avon Bat Group in this exciting night-time walk.

Meet: at Lakewood Road entrance, Henleaze.



Nature in the City is a Bristol Parks project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Neighbourhood Renewal (through the Parks Improvement Project). Nature in the City is working with local communities to help improve, promote and celebrate six key sites for wildlife in Bristol.

Nature in the City, Sally Oldfield, Bristol Parks, Bristol City Council, Colston 33, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4AU. Tel: 0117 922 44 29 Email: [sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk) [www.bristol.gov.uk/parks](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks)

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## Birds and Beasts

A Birds and Beasts event at the Northern Slopes attracted over 80 people who came to make bird boxes as well as to craft their own weird and wonderful wooden creatures from scrap timber. This was just one of the exciting Nature in the City events that took place over the autumn and winter; with fungi forays, owl prowls and bird box making all proving popular. Thanks to everyone who helped to organise the events and to all who came and joined in the fun!



Above pictures: Participant showing off her cat sculpture at the Birds and Beasts event, mushroom hunting on Troopers Hill, making bird feeders at Narrowways.

## Bristol celebrates new Local Nature Reserves

We are delighted to announce that Badock's Wood, Eastwood Farm and Manor Woods Valley have all recently become Local Nature Reserves. This official designation is made by a local authority (in this case Bristol City Council) in consultation with Natural England. Being given the title of Local Nature Reserve marks these wild spaces out as being important for nature and highly valued by the local community.

There are over 1,000 Local Nature Reserves in England, all making a valuable contribution to the country's wildlife. The new designations in Bristol bring our total number of Local Nature Reserves to seven, with plans to extend the network in the future.

Turn to the back page to find out about 2008 wildlife events on offer.



Picture: Celebration at Manor Woods Valley of the new Local Nature Reserve status.

FEATURES: Inside – local nature reserve news. Back – wildlife events for 2008



# Features



# Features

## Local Nature Reserve News



There are many open spaces and local nature reserves in Bristol to visit: for more information on how to find them visit, [www.bristol.gov.uk/parks](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks) or [www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### Wild about town....

Spring is here and, as I write this edition of the newsletter, I am looking forward to getting out into Bristol's nature reserves to enjoy the sights and sounds of the new season. If you are looking for somewhere to go wildlife spotting over the next few months, here are some tips:



Bluebells

### Where are the Nature in the City sites?

**BADOCK'S WOOD:** access from Doncaster Road (Southmead) or Lakewood Road (Henleaze)

**EASTWOOD FARM:** access from Whitmore Avenue (Brislington)

**MANOR WOODS VALLEY:** access from St. Peter's Rise or Vale Lane (Bishopsworth)

**NARROWWAYS:** access from Mina Road (St. Werburghs)

**NORTHERN SLOPES:** access from Wedmore Vale, Daventry Road or Kenmare Road (Knowle West)

**TROOPERS HILL:** access from Malvern Road or Troopers Hill Road (St. George)

All these sites are supported by enthusiastic community groups whose hard work is vital in improving and promoting the nature reserves. Groups welcome new members. If you would like to get involved, visit [www.bristol.gov.uk/parks](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks) to find out more or see contact details on back page.



Ramsons in flower at Badock's Wood

### June to July

Our meadows come into their own now, and we can enjoy a stunning array of wildflowers within the city boundaries. Look out for the bizarrely named corky-fruited water dropwort at Narrowways, as well as the lovely purple flowering knapweed. Manor Woods Valley is well known for its wonderful wildflower meadow, and we are running a guided walk here in June, as well as at Narrowways and the Northern Slopes, so come along and meet our wildflower experts ([see back page for details of events](#)).



### Read all about it!

New leaflets are available for both **Badock's Wood** and the **Northern Slopes**. Call Bristol Parks on **922 44 29** to request a copy, or visit [www.bristol.gov.uk/parks](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks) to download them.

The leaflets were produced thanks to the efforts of **Friends of Badock's Wood**, the **Northern Slopes Initiative** and **Living Rivers**. They were funded by **Awards for All** and **Neighbourhood Renewal** (through the Parks Improvement Project).

### April to May

The birds are busy at this time of year, and all the nature reserves are alive with birdsong. Listen out for the characteristic call of the chiffchaff and see if you can spot this tiny warbler as it flits from tree to tree. In contrast, a bird too big to miss is the heron. Eastwood Farm is home to Bristol's only heronry and these majestic birds can frequently be seen flying to and from their nests high in the tree tops.

Spring is also the time to enjoy woodland flowers. Visit Badock's Wood or Manor Woods Valley to see ramsons (wild garlic), bluebells, wood anemones and more.

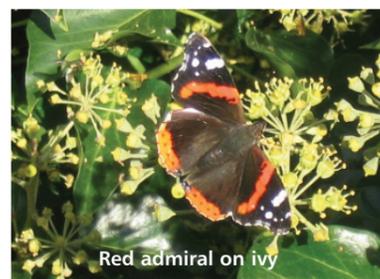


Agrimony

### August to September

The very beginning of August is the perfect time of year to enjoy our only heathland site in Bristol when the slopes of Troopers Hill are carpeted in purple heather.

As we head towards the end of the summer, fruit is plentiful with blackberries, sloes and hawthorn all very attractive to birds. Look out for butterflies feeding in large numbers on the flowers of ivy at this time of year.



Red admiral on ivy



Bell heather

