



# Events

## 2007



# Newsletter

## Spring/Summer 2007

**Events** – Unless otherwise stated, events are **FREE** but **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**. To book your place email: [sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk) or call 922 44 29

All walks are taken at a gentle pace, although they may involve steps, steep slopes or muddy paths (ring for details). **Sturdy footwear is recommended.**

### APRIL

#### Dawn Chorus Walk – Badock's Wood

Saturday 21st April, 7am – 8.30am. Join us on an early morning walk round this lovely woodland, with bird expert John Tully as our guide to understanding birdsong. Meeting point is Lakewood Road, Henleaze.

#### Early Bird Walk – Narrowways

Saturday 28th April, 7am to 8.30am. Take an early morning walk to enjoy the spring birdsong at Narrowways, led by local bird expert Des Bowring. Meeting point is the church on Mina Road, St. Werburghs

### MAY

#### Tree Gazing Walk – Manor Woods Valley

Tuesday 15th May, 6.30pm to 8pm. Join tree expert Tony Titchen as he introduces us to the trees of Manor Woods. Meeting point is St. Peter's Rise, Bishopsworth.

#### History of Herbs – Northern Slopes

Thursday 17th May, 6.30pm to 8pm. Join experienced herbalists Julia Green and Sue Redfern to discover the medicinal uses of wild plants, past and present. Meeting point is at the Health Park (in front of main building), Downton Road, Knowle West.

#### Tree Gazing Walk – Troopers Hill

Thursday 24th May, 7pm – 8.30pm. Tony Titchen will be our guide to the trees on and around Troopers Hill. Meeting point is at Malvern Road, St. George.

#### Minibeast Magic – Manor Woods Valley

Thursday 31st May, 2pm – 4pm. A family fun event during half-term. Take part in minibeast hunts, stream dipping, mask making and more! (Organised in partnership with CSV Environment). Access to Manor Woods is from St. Peter's Rise, Bishopsworth. No need to book.

### JUNE

#### The History and Wildlife of Troopers Hill

Friday 1st June, 10.30am to 12noon. Join Rob Acton-Campbell of the Friends of Troopers Hill on a guided walk to discover this fascinating Local Nature Reserve. Meeting point is at Malvern Road, St. George.

#### Wildflower Walk – Narrowways

Sunday 3rd June, 11am to 12.30pm. Rupert Higgins will lead us around the hillside of Narrowways to discover the wildflowers and butterflies that thrive in this inner-city oasis. Meeting point is the church on Mina Road, St. Werburghs

#### Manor Woods Valley

Wednesday 13th June, 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. A guided walk to view the wonderful wildflower meadow. Other attractions include the woodland and River Malago.

This event is organised through Bristol Museum: booking is essential, please call Oliver Rees on 9223571 or e-mail [oliver.rees@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.rees@bristol.gov.uk)

#### Pondmania! – Eastwood Farm

Saturday 16th June, 2pm to 4pm

Pond-dipping and other fun wildlife activities for families.

To get to Eastwood Farm take the driveway off Whitmore Avenue (off Broomhill Road) in Brislington. Once in the reserve, it is a short walk down to the pond (beside the river). The route will be signed on the day (or call beforehand for a map).

No need to book.

#### Raptor Ramble – Northern Slopes

Wednesday 27th June, 6pm to 8pm. Meet hawk and owl expert Ian McGuire and one of his tame owls. Ian will also lead a walk around the site to explain the lifestyles of birds of prey. Meet on the Northern Slopes – access from Kenmare Road near the Cloverdown ex-elderly people's home. No need to book.

#### Meadow Magic – Badock's Wood

Saturday 30th June, 11am – 12.30pm. On this walk Rupert Higgins will help us discover wildflowers and butterflies. The walk will also feature the fascinating Bronze Age Burial Mound. Meet at Doncaster Road entrance, Southmead.

### JULY

#### Flowery Folklore and Poetic Plants – Eastwood Farm

Thursday 5th July, 6.30-8pm. Discover quirky facts and interesting tales about some of our wild plants. Julian Thomas will be our guide in explaining the use of wildflowers in poems, plays and stories from times gone by.

Meeting point is the end of the drive into Eastwood Farm, off Whitmore Avenue.

#### History of Narrowways Walk

Tuesday 10th July, 7.30pm to 9pm. Join us for an evening ramble on Narrowways hill when Harry McPhillimy will help us to uncover the history that has shaped this fascinating area. Meeting point is the church on Mina Road, St. Werburghs.

### AUGUST

#### Bugs and Beasties – Troopers Hill

Saturday 11th August, 4pm to 6pm. An afternoon of fun for all the family. Come and join us in the hunt for the smallest creatures living on Troopers Hill. Meeting point is Troopers Hill, access from Malvern Road, St. George. No need to book. For more information, call Rob or Susan on 947 5037 or email [friends@troopers-hill.org.uk](mailto:friends@troopers-hill.org.uk)

#### Be a Bat Detective! – Manor Woods Valley

Tuesday 21st August, 8.30pm – 10pmish. Explore Manor Woods Valley after dark in the hunt for mysterious night-time animals. Meeting point is St. Peter's Rise, Bishopsworth.

#### Aero-Bat-ics! – Troopers Hill

Thursday 30th August, 8pm to 10pm. An exciting night-time hunt for bats on Troopers Hill. Please bring a torch. Meeting point is Malvern Road, St. George.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Bats on the Bommie! – The Northern Slopes

Thursday 6th September, 7.30pm – 9pmish. Help us in our search for bats on the part of the slopes known as The Bommie. Remember to bring your torch. Meeting point is outside St. Barnabas Church on Daventry Road, Knowle West.

#### The History and Wildlife of Troopers Hill

Friday 7th September, 10.30am to 12noon. Join Rob Acton-Campbell of the Friends of Troopers Hill on a guided walk to discover this fascinating Local Nature Reserve. Meeting point is at Malvern Road, St. George.

#### Avon Valley Walk

Sunday 9th September, 10am to 4pm. A guided walk taking in a lovely stretch of the River Avon and several green spaces alongside, including Troopers Hill and Eastwood Farm.

#### Discovery Day

Saturday 22nd September, 11am to 5pm. Learn about the history, geology and wildlife of Troopers Hill at this special exhibition hosted by the Friends of Troopers Hill. Venue to be confirmed. For more information call Rob on 947 5037 or email [friends@troopers-hill.org.uk](mailto:friends@troopers-hill.org.uk)

### OCTOBER

#### Fungi Foray – Troopers Hill

Sunday 7th October, 10.30am to 12noon. Join expert Justin Smith in a hunt for both deadly and delicious mushrooms and toadstools on Troopers Hill. Meeting point is Malvern Road, St. George.

#### Fungi Foray – Manor Woods Valley

Sunday 21st October 10.30am to 12.30. Join expert Justin Smith in a hunt for both deadly and delicious mushrooms and toadstools at Manor Woods Valley. Meet at St. Peter's Rise entrance in Bishopsworth.



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.

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**Welcome** to the first newsletter from Nature in the City. I hope that it tempts you out of doors and into some of Bristol's fantastic wildlife sites this spring and summer. Turn to the back page for details of a huge range of exciting wildlife walks and other events that are on offer. If you fancy trying something a little more hands-on, why not join a conservation work party? It's a chance to meet friendly people and no experience is needed. Whatever you choose to do, I hope you enjoy visiting our nature reserves in 2007.

*Sally Oldfield*



Badock's Wood – © Tanya Darch

**FEATURES:** local nature reserves to visit | events 2007



# Features



# Features

## Local Nature Reserves



There are three other Local Nature Reserves in Bristol: Royate Hill, Stockwood Open Space and Lawrence Weston Moor. All three are jointly managed with the Avon Wildlife Trust and are fantastic places to enjoy seeing wildlife in Bristol. For more information on how to get there visit, [www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk) or [www.bristol.gov.uk/parks](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks)

### → Badock's Wood

This lovely ancient woodland is well worth a visit at any time of year, although come in spring to see bluebells, ramsons, celandines and other plants in flower. The River Trym flows through the woodland, and an ancient bronze age burial mound adds special interest to the meadow area above the wood.

**Access:** From Lakewood Road (Henleaze) or Doncaster Road (Southmead).



There are good paths throughout the site and no steep slopes.

**Friends Group:** The Friends of Badock's Wood welcome new members to their meetings, events or work days. See [www.fobw.org](http://www.fobw.org) for further information.

**An Autumn clean-up day is taking place on: Saturday 27th October, 10am**

### ← Northern Slopes

Visit the Northern Slopes to discover secret areas of wilderness in the heart of an urban area. You can enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of Bristol from these undulating slopes, which support areas of horse-grazed grassland as well as woodland.

**Access:** From outside the Cloverdown building on Kenmare Road, also from Wedmore Vale (Knowle West). The site has some steep slopes.

**Friends Group:** The Northern Slopes Initiative welcome new members at their meetings, events and work days. For more information see [www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk](http://www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk) or call Mil on 07810 474 558



Northern Slopes © Cheryl Martin



Eastwood Farm © Sally Oldfield

### ↓ Manor Woods Valley

The River Malago meanders through this hidden green valley of ancient woodland and wildflower meadows. Come in spring time to see the woodland at its best and in June to enjoy the wonderful array of meadow flowers.

**Access:** From behind Bishopsworth library on St. Peter's Rise, or from Vale Lane. An all weather path runs through the site. The path through the woodland can be muddy, although work to improve it will be carried out shortly.

**Friends Group:** The Malago Valley Conservation Group welcome new members at their meetings, events and work days. For more information see [www.mvcg.org.uk](http://www.mvcg.org.uk) or contact Marie Jo on 9643 106.

### ↑ Eastwood farm

A magical haven, with water meadows, ponds and woodland beside the River Avon. In spring and summer look out for herons flying to and from their nests in the nearby heronry.

**Access:** From Whitmore Avenue off Broomhill Road in Brislington. Parking on site is available during working hours, otherwise park on Whitmore Avenue. There are some steep slopes and muddy paths on the site.

**Friends Group:** The Friends of Eastwood Farm welcome new members to their meetings, events and work days. Contact Sally Oldfield for more details.



Manor Woods © Sally Oldfield



Troopers Hill © Rob Acton-Campbell

### ↑ Troopers Hill

This dramatic hillside, topped by its characteristic 18th century chimney, is of great interest for industrial heritage as well as wildlife. Troopers Hill is the only place in Bristol to see heathland. Visit in late summer to enjoy the spectacular carpets of purple heather.

**Access:** From the end of Malvern Road or from several entrances on Troopers Hill Road (St. George). The site has some steep slopes.

**Friends Group:** The Friends of Troopers Hill welcome new members to their meetings, events or workparties. For more information see [www.troopers-hill.org.uk](http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk) or call Rob or Susan on 947 5037.

Work parties take place from 10am until noon on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at Troopers Hill Road/ Greendown entrance.

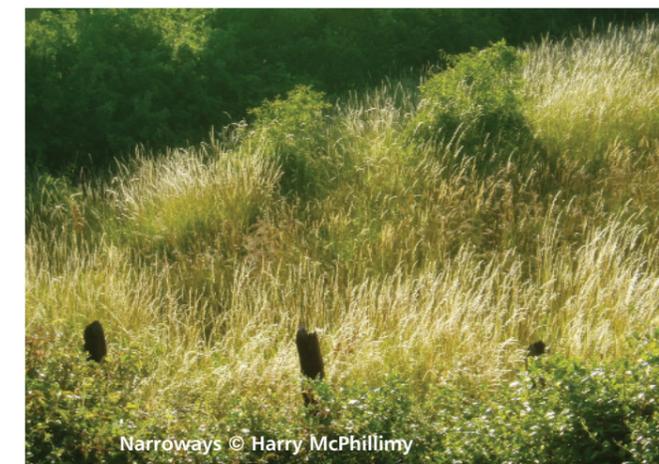
### ↓ Narrowways

This stunning hillside site consists of old railway embankments and offers wonderful views over the city. Visit in summer to enjoy wildflower meadows alive with butterflies.

**Access:** From beside the climbing centre (the church) on Mina Road, St. Werburghs. The site has some steep slopes.

**Friends Group:** The Narrowways Millennium Green Trust welcome new members to their meetings, events or workparties. For more information see <http://freespace.virgin.net/harry.jen/>

Work Parties are taking place on **21st April, 2nd June, 14th July, 1st September (haycutting), 22nd September and 27th October**. Meet on the top of the hill by the seat at 10.30am. For more details call Guy on 923 2150 or email: [guy@forsterdesign.com](mailto:guy@forsterdesign.com)



Narrowways © Harry McPhillimy