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The Friends of Troopers Hill

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September/October 2007



Not only was our family fun picnic very popular with visitors on the day, but it raised a huge amount of funds for us. We sold 1000 raffle tickets and together with sales of drinks on the day we made over £400. This enables us to fund events such as the exciting Photo Competition we announce overleaf. Thank you to all of you who bought tickets and contributed to such a successful event.

David Stephenson, a local author who has written several books on local history, is organising a St. George history group. If you are interested in local history, the first meeting is at 7.30pm on 27th September in St. Michael's church hall, Kingsway. Entrance will cost £1.50.

Get your kites out of storage and ready for our second Kite Flying Event on 14th October. Bring them along and join us in getting as many as possible in the sky over Troopers Hill.

Friends have copies of several old hand written documents relating to history of the Hill. Parts are difficult to read and we would like to get these copy typed into word processing software. Can you help? If so, contact Susan.

CONTACT US

If you'd like to talk to us about any issues raised here, please contact:

Susan Acton-Campbell (Chair), Tel. **0117 947 5037**.

Sally Oldfield (Bristol Council Nature in the City),
Tel. **0117 922 4429**

You can also write to us at: **3, Corkers Hill, St. George, Bristol, BS5 8DT**

Email:

chair@troopers-hill.org.uk or **Sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk**

Or go to the online forum at:

<http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/forum.html>



Is it a Bug—or is it a Beastie?

Friends of Troopers Hill Family Fun Picnic Day - the sun shone, the gazebos were erected. The display of photographs were in position, showing all the seasons and minerals, also foliage to be found on the Hill. So many species from the far far north of the country to the south of the British Isles.

The day kicked off with a trickle of people and then mums armed with rugs and boxes of food. More and more people started to arrive. The long, the short, also the tall - young and old alike and the folk in the wheelchairs. We welcome you to our new pathway built especially for you. Then the fun started. In the craft tent masks were made. Butterflies created made from pipe cleaners, coloured wool. Even a few caterpillars were made - I know I seen them climbing up the tent - I screamed! Talented persons the young persons of St George. But we must not forget the middle age persons down on their hands and knees doing the instructing!

Then it came to the bugs and beasties event. Young girls and boys, jars clutched in their hands - some with nets swinging in the air. **At one time I thought the "Pied Piper" had arrived** as they moved off in mass. Well, I for one saw a man with a net - **I thought "Livingstone of the Nile" I presume. It was a superb event.**

On sale were soft drinks and above all was a bumper raffle with a table full of prizes, even a balloon flight. Every ticket was sold and the raffle drawn on the day. Every one of the Friends of Troopers Hill done their utmost to make it a great day out and to welcome the hundreds of visitors. Many brought picnics. Some even had a bar-b-q.

But the most welcome thing was some of the old folk, many in their 90s gave a lot of information about the hill. Above all, many people had not been on the hill before - so they said. I have heard rumours about courting on the hill but they were keeping tight lipped about that.

Many could not believe the panoramic view over the city and out as far as Dundry, the Mendip Hills. If you did not come, keep your eyes out and ears in focus for discovery day, 22nd of September.

Roy Mantell

Troopers Hill Discovery Day, on Saturday 22nd September, will feature the launch of our new 'Hill Geology' and 'Hill History' leaflets and will be your chance to see the information about the hill that we have collected over the past few years. There will be information about both the history and wildlife and we will be leading short walks on the hill to show its main features. There will also be a chance to see videos and photographs showing Friends' work and events. We are also keen to collect your memories of the hill. Do you have any stories you can tell or any photographs you can lend us? Join us in the tent on Troopers Hill Field from 11am. The event is supported by the Big Lottery Fund as part of our Breathing Places project.



Troopers Hill Photo Competition.

We are delighted to announce the Friends of Troopers Hill photography competition. Many, many people take photos on the Hill and now is your chance to show them off.

To take part, all you need to do is take a photo that is one of the following: taken from the Hill, taken of the Hill, or taken of something or someone on the Hill. The Hill in question is, of course, Troopers Hill. You can submit them either as an electronic image to friends@troopers-hill.org.uk, or as print or slide by post or in person to Susan at 3 Corkers Hill, BS5 8DT.

There will be three categories: under 12 years old, 12–16 years old and over 16. Please make sure you make it clear what age the photographer was at the time of taking the image. There will be a first place prize in each group and we will also announce runners up and any commended entries. Prizes will consist of a trophy and a voucher.

The winners will be announced at our AGM on 11th December when we hope to show as many entries as we can. So it will be well worth coming along.

Rules: We will endeavour to return slides (so make sure we have your details), but not prints. All photos will be scanned and then judged in a digital format. If you enter an image, you will retain the copyright to that image, but you will automatically give us the rights to use that image as we see fit in the future in our, or allied groups, publicity. Judging will be by a panel and you can enter a maximum of three images. A statement of ownership of the images you submit will be required. All entries need to be received by 1st December 2007. No person deemed as a "professional" photographer shall be eligible to enter. Judges and FoTH's decisions are final.



Malago Valley Conservation Group

MVCG is the support group for the soon-to-be Manor Woods Valley LNR. Unlike FoTH and other Local Nature Reserve support groups, we have a much wider role. We started in 1998 as a campaign for a Bishopsworth & Malago Conservation Area and we operate in much the same way as other amenity groups around the city. We monitor planning applications and comment on planning issues. We undertake practical action, such as litter clearances in streets, open spaces and the Malago stream, and we improve the street scene by planting trees and daffodils in grassed areas. We inform and involve people by organising talks and events and publishing a regular newsletter. We work with the City Council and Bristol Living Rivers and we liaise with local community and amenity groups and work with local schools.



Padding in the Malago during an 'Amphibious Garbage Raid'

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 22nd September: Troopers Hill Discovery Day. 11am–4pm on Troopers Hill Field. *Celebrate the conclusion of our Breathing Places Project. Learn about the history, geology and wildlife of Troopers Hill. Supported by the Big Lottery Fund*

Tuesday 2nd October: Meeting. 7.15pm. Wesley Memorial Church Hall, Bryant's Hill.

Saturday 6th October: Work Party. 10 am until midday. *Meet at corner of Troopers Hill Road and Greendown.*

Sunday 14th October: Kite Flying Event. 2pm onwards on Troopers Hill. ***Come and join our second kite event and fly your kite on the Hill. Let's see how many kites we can get in the sky at once this year. Watch flying demonstrations and make your own kite in our ever popular craft area.***

Sunday 3rd November: Work Party. As 6th October.

Other Events: 19th September. Barton Hill History Group meeting. 7.30 pm. Barton Hill Settlement. £1.50 for non members.

Nature in the City Events.

Contact Sally Oldfield for further details.

Friday 7th September: Through the Seasons Walk. *The third of the series of four short and relaxed guided walks introducing the history and wildlife of the Hill.*

Sunday 9th September: Avon Valley Walk. *A guided walk through Conham, Dundry Park, Troopers Hill, St. Anne's Woods, Nightingale Valley & Eastwood Farm finishing at Beeses Bar & Tea Rooms.*

Sunday 7th October: Fungi Foray. 10.30am. Join expert Justin Smith in a hunt for mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi on Troopers Hill.

Manor Woods Valley Group is a sub-group of MVCG, formed to focus on our main local open space. A small group meets about once a month with Sally Oldfield, our Local Nature Reserve Officer. We continue to work to ensure basic maintenance by monitoring litter, grass-mowing and we report any problem we cannot tackle ourselves. We also carry out small improvement projects. We have put pressure on the Council to provide this valuable green space with sign boards at entrances. We encourage the use of Manor Woods Valley by children and families, and we published *My Manor Woods Book*, an interactive guide to the rich range of habitats there. **We take part in 'Booted Up Bristol', an annual project run jointly by Bristol Living Rivers and other City Council departments to bring primary school children to Manor Woods Valley (and Blaise, in north Bristol) to learn through the environment.** With help from the City Council we have obtained a grant from YANSEC to create a path through the wooded area. We organise a variety of events: every summer, we **have an 'amphibious garbage raid' to clear the stream of rubbish.** We also organise litter picking when needed. With Sally's help we have run events for children and taken part in walks.

Marie Jo Coutanche

Winning numbers in our Family Fun Picnic raffle were:
585,571,361,412,290,479,938,512,583,709,998,700,590,696,124,
796,113,21,361,62,702 All have been located and advised.