



**Note of FOTH meeting Thursday 18 May 2006
7.15pm Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill**

Present: Susan Acton-Campbell (Chair), Rob Acton-Campbell, Gillian, Liz R, Roy, Tanya Darch, Maureen, Kit, Liz and Alan.

Apologies: Sally, Helen, Val, Ann Webb, Caroline, Claire, Ben, Jenny.

1. Outstanding actions

- We can't put the Royate Hill DVD on the website as there are Copyright issues.
- "Breathing Places" www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/ with Bill Oddie, the BBC liked the photos on our website and will be using some on their site & in their brochure.
- Manor Woods Walk June 1st – anyone interested in a car share to contact Susan.
- Nick Hudson has done a grid for recording sightings on the hill. We can't put it on the website for copyright reasons but it is available in paper form if anyone wants a supply.
- Rob & Nick will do a photo survey instead of the paid survey in August.
- Lamb Inn. KPG own it. Catherine Howe of KPG says they plan to turn it into a factory unit. She will see if they have any old records we can have sight of.

Action for Chair to contact the Dogs Trust carried forward.

2. Approve previous minutes

The minutes were approved

3. Feedback on

Good Friday Service. The service went well. One lady came to the dawn chorus walk as a result. Kit located a possible PA to use on July 1st.

Hencliffe Wood walk: We saw a small habitat very like the environment on Troopers Hill, with broom etc. The Panorama Walk was very interesting. Local botanist, Libby Houston was on the walk and will be coming to the Purple Prowl.

Dawn Chorus walk: Was brilliant. Sadly, John Tully is not giving talks any more and will be stepping down the number of walks he does. Lorna Shaw of the University of Exeter was there. She is doing a survey of house sparrows to try and explain why they are disappearing from urban areas. <http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/level1/level2/sparrows.htm> Much to her delight, we saw 10 house sparrows in the Gully.

Badocks wood walk: Eileen gave a talk about the geology of the area. Sally told us they are re-seeding an area as meadowland. Tanya gave a talk about rivers.

4. Any issues on Troopers Hill to be passed to Caroline/Claire

As Caroline & Claire had sent their apologies, this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

5. Feedback and plans for work parties

The **benchmaking** was enjoyed by all concerned. We will be putting the benches in on June 3rd. The 3rd bench will be made by Barton Hill Settlement Youth Inclusion Group.

We discussed the siting of the third bench. Local residents had concerns about the proposed position overlooking Troopers Hill Rd. An alternative suggestion was to put it in the "bomb crater". [Rob to find a suitable place.](#)

We talked about using the metal gate from between the field and the hill to replace the **contractors' gate**. Roy was not keen on this idea as we might need to close the gate between the field and the hill e.g. if more problems from motorcyclists.

Bottom gate – will be re-hung with a new gatepost.

Management plan. Rob had produced an excellent report and update (available on the website). Most of the Year 1 stuff has been done (P27). A lot of the Year 2 stuff (p28) is pending but we have made a start on most of it. We discussed what to do about replacing kissing gates and talked about zig-zags and A-frames.

Gillian had obtained some documents about the **history of the field & the hill**. The field was allotments and was bought by the Council on 24th March 1932 for £3165. On 14 September 1956 they bought Troopers Hill for £600 and bought the woodland on 21st December 1956 for use as a tip. Troopers Hill was owned by the Somers family until 1924 when they sold it for £515 to Joseph John Ballard. Ballard's son sold it to Frank Viner in 1948 for £600. Frank Viner sold it 6 years later for £600.

The video of the bath house has been shown to the Bristol Industrial Archeology Society www.b-i-a-s.org.uk and someone might be able to restore it.

Ben Barker of the Southville Centre has written a book about the history of the New Cut.

6. YANSEC

Our thanks went out to Caroline as Bristol Parks have done the match funding (see April minutes). The money will be used for benches and the path, including the Malvern Rd puddle. We discussed the difficulties of getting the path right up to the chimney and whether we'd be better off to mend the area around the western bench and lead the wheelchair access there. Most people thought it was more important to get the path up to the chimney as that is the focal point of the hill.

Sally and the Youth Inclusion Group will be benchmaking on Friday 9th June. Can someone put up a gazebo for them?

7. Events planning

Moth Magic 26th May 9:30 p.m.

Bring a torch! Kit will put up the table & boards beforehand.

Bristol Festival of Nature 3rd & 4th June in Millennium Square.

We will be manning a stall all weekend. Volunteers welcome. <http://www.festivalofnature.org/>

Health & Safety course.

Possibly in June. One indoor session & one outdoor session.

Music on the Hill – 1st July

We can't control access to the hill but we can ask for donations. People are being asked to pay £6 for a wristband and numbers will be entered in a Prize Draw. The main prize is a hot air balloon ride donated by Somerfield. Other prizes include 2 tickets for a future St Aidans concert and possibly a nesting box. Peter Wilkinson of Bristol Parks will be asked to do the draw. Volunteers are needed to be stewards. We will start at 2:30 getting the chairs from the church The concert will be from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

We picked a date for the **Kite Event – October 14th**.

8. Networking

Barton Hill History Group are having a walk and Strawberry Feast on Troopers Hill on June 21st.

9. Living Rivers Project – Tanya Darch.

Tanya gave an interesting talk about her work on the Living Rivers Project. Her work involves:

- Monitoring water quality
- Promoting Bristol's rivers
- Working with primary schools – the importance of water quality
- Organizing walks – 40 people on the Malago walk last weekend, mostly new faces.

She is planning a walk with FOTH and the Friends of Eastwood Farm on 3rd September, possibly starting at Conham at 10:30.

10. Budget.

We have enough money for planned expenditure. The £200 from an anonymous donor will be spent on tools, gloves and spares for signs. The money from JLT, Liz's former employer, will be spent on a storyteller for an event. Grant – we want to apply for money for leaflets and a map of the hill. The over £700 from Akzo Nobel will go to tree felling for a sight line from Troopers Hill Field plus a bench on the Field. We are looking at way of stretching the money to 2 benches with the help of Bristol Parks. A model being considered is the 150cm wide version of the bench shown on this link http://ogilvie.jacobyte.co.uk/products/seating_and_benches/re/default.asp

11. 2006 Survey.

We had 9 replies, which went into the prize draw. All were complimentary. People like the new gates and think the hill looks better. Thanks to Kit for his hard work on preparing and distributing the survey.

Date of Next meeting:

Next meeting Tuesday 27 June, 2006, Wesley Memorial Church 7:15pm.