

Troopers Hill is yellow!

May is when Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve turns yellow. All through the year, even in winter, you will see patches of yellow-blossomed, prickly bushes across Troopers Hill. This is gorse and can be recognised by the distinctive coconut oil scent of the flowers and the amount of pain produced if you brush against its spines.

In May, a much gentler plant comes into flower that loves Troopers Hill's acid soil, turning large areas of the hillside yellow. Broom has green ridged shoots and in its original form has bright yellow flowers. However there has been much bee activity over the years, cross-pollinating the native species with the varieties in people's gardens. Look out for blossoms with red centres, a pink variety and a very pale yellow version.

Unsurprisingly the Broom Moth (*Ceramica pisi*), when in its distinctive brown and yellow striped caterpillar form, eats broom. Why not come to Troopers Hill's Moth Night on Friday 19th May to see if any Broom Moths are among the many and colourful moths attracted to the Bristol and District Moth Group's light trap. This event is free but places MUST be booked so numbers can be managed. The start time will be 9.30pm. Email events2017@troopers-hill.org.uk or telephone Susan on 0117 947 5037 to book your place.

Join the Friends of Troopers Hill on their 1st Saturday of the month conservation work parties to find out more and carry out work to preserve and improve the very special habitats on Troopers Hill.



www.troopers-hill.org.uk



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