

Troopers Hill – for people and wildlife

For many people going somewhere new can be a little daunting. Some people, when visiting a place for the first time can quickly dismiss it as not being very interesting when there is no-one with them to point out special things to spark the imagination and lead to further, independent visits.

The local volunteer group, Friends of Troopers Hill, work hard to ensure that Troopers Hill offers a welcome to all. Thanks to their efforts £80,000 was raised to install the play area on Troopers Hill Field. This made the site more attractive to children, hopefully leading them on to explore the natural play options on Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and the woodland.

£62,500 has now been allocated to create a new path from the play area to Troopers Hill LNR and surface the track from Malvern Rd along the edge of the Field to the LNR. This will allow families with buggies and people with mobility issues to visit Troopers Hill all year round.

Friends Troopers Hill will be discussing the details of this work with Bristol City Council. Once agreed the next step will be to offer the work for tender with the aim of the work being complete before the end of summer.

In April the friends were very pleased to welcome a visit from the Hive. The Hive is a drop-in centre for adults with learning disabilities on Two Mile Hill Rd. Natural Learners led bird-themed outdoor learning activities ranging from bird bingo, cross of images of birds as they were seen or heard, to building a nest using cuttings from some nature conservation work.



Troopers Hill vlog - Birds

This was the first of four planned visits with the work of Natural Learners and transport costs covered, thanks to National Lottery players, by funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Future visits will cover plants, invertebrates and fungi.

The Hive has published a video which shows how much the group enjoyed their visit. You can view the video on Youtube via <https://tinyurl.com/hivevisit2019>

Volunteers are always very welcome at the Hive. If you are interested in helping please phone 0117 9614372 or email volunteers@thehiveavon.org.uk

Friends of Troopers Hill lead walks, events and conservation work parties throughout the year and welcome volunteers who would like to help with these activities.

There is a conservation work party on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Thursday of every month, starting promptly at 10am and finishing at noon. The volunteers meet by the red slide on Troopers Hill Field.