

Welcoming art, youth and astronomy to Troopers Hill

All might have seemed quiet at Troopers Hill, particularly as the Bugs and Beasties activity planned for Balloon Fiesta weekend, had to be cancelled due to bad weather. However, behind the scenes a great deal of work has been going on to make Troopers Hill even more welcoming, particularly to young people, families and people with mobility difficulties.

Thanks to National Lottery players and money from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, another practical artwork is on its way to Troopers Hill. Designed by Clare Challice of Inkwood Design and created by Arien Signs, a new welcoming sign will be installed soon at the third entrance to the Local Nature Reserve up Troopers Hill Rd.

A new group of Young Rangers has been visiting and carrying out conservation work on Troopers Hill as part of the Future Proof Parks project, led by Groundwork and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Young Rangers will be making a presentation at the Friends of Troopers Hill October meeting of ideas to help involve young people in Troopers Hill into the future.

Professional storyteller Cassandra Wye is working with astrophysicist Dr Megan Argo on a project called "We Share the Same Moon" aimed at creating story-based resources in science education. As part of this there will be a storytelling and star gazing session on Troopers Hill on Saturday 7th September. Sadly all places for this activity are now taken but there is a waiting list at www.tinyurl.com/starstories2019 which a small number of people can join so that they will be offered places if anyone cancels their booking.

The project "We Share the Same Moon" has generated a range of science activities for schools ranging from Early Years Foundation Stage to Key Stage 3. These can be found on the website www.wstsm.drmeaganargo.net

Coincidentally, a local firm that provides a mobile digital planetarium service has offered to provide a planetarium experience aimed at families for Friends of Troopers Hill. This offer will be discussed at their October meeting.

Final designs have been drawn up by Bristol City Council for the work to improve paths and add a path to Troopers Hill Field to make Troopers Hill more accessible. The Friends hope to have the final costings soon so an order can be placed for the work.

All are welcome to the next Friends of Troopers Hill meeting, on Thursday 3rd October, 7:15pm-9pm in the back room of Summerhill Methodist Church, 5 Air Balloon Rd, BS5 8LB. Meeting are social, friendly and welcoming, covering topics ranging from maintenance on Troopers Hill to future plans. Please come and give your Ideas, opinions and feedback.

Conservation work parties are also a good way of finding out more about Troopers Hill. Volunteers are always needed and it is a great way to exercise.

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.

Young Rangers learning about Troopers Hill from Rob Acton-Campbell (on right)



Young Rangers hard at work on Troopers Hill

