



HAM HILL ON A WINTERS DAY

WORK PROGRAMME

Most of the work over the past few months has involved cutting back overgrown areas especially brambles to allow for new growth, and to prepare the ground for tree planting.



In early December the Ham Hill volunteers and Lufton College planted around 280 new trees in Pit Wood. These native trees included oak, beech, birch and hornbeam and will help in restoring biodiversity in this important part of the park. The Friends played an important part in this work by obtaining the trees, free of charge, from "The Conservation Volunteers".

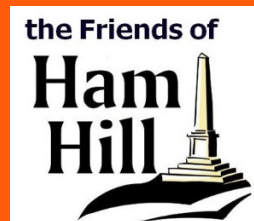
Another planting session is planned in March.



We have also built "leaky dams" in the stream at the bottom of Witcombe Valley to slow the flow of water from Ham Hill. This work has been undertaken through the "The Hills To Levels Partnership" a joint initiative of FWAG and Somerset Wildlife Trust (amongst others) aimed at reducing the impact of flooding on the Somerset Levels and Moors. The overall project is funded by players of The People's Postcode Lottery.

We have made six Tawny Owl boxes which have been placed in the trees in Pit and Horses Wood. The boxes have been painted by

FoHH NEWSLETTER



Winter 2017

the youngsters at one of the Ranger's events. These will be viewed at a later date to see if the owls approve of their accommodation. We will be making more boxes at a later date.

We now have Devon Red cattle grazing on the Northern Spur quite happily. They are a friendly bunch but please remember to keep your dogs on a lead where the cattle and sheep are now grazing. There are notices on all gates where you enter the grazing areas.



VOLUNTEERS

This has been a very busy time again for both for the Rangers and volunteers. To help keep on top of necessary work the FOHH have helped fund a part-time Ranger for two days a week. His name is Ashley and he served his apprenticeship at Ham Hill eight years ago. He is a really nice guy and gets on well with everyone.



On our last volunteering day we were invited to Tinker's Bubble where Michael Zair explained the history and showed us around. We all found this extremely interesting and had an enjoyable morning. In the evening we had our Volunteer's Christmas party, treated by SSDC, at The Royal Oak at Hardington. We had a great meal and fun evening, finishing with a game of skittles (sort of!)

UPDATE ON JON MARSHMAN

Jon's family had a good Christmas with Jon being allowed home for Christmas Day with an overnight stay into Boxing Day. Despite being tired Jon joined in with much of the festivities and gave the family the boost they needed. Jon was also able to come home for New Year's Eve to see 2017 in.

Terry's update: Judy and I visited Jon on Monday 9th January and

found him to be in good spirits with much more movement in his left hand and leg and has quite a speed on walking with his trolley. The room that he is in is really nice but unfortunately most of the patients do not seem to mix as they did in the old building. Jon has now moved onto the next phase of his recovery at Dene Barton Community Hospital; the other side of Taunton.

STOKE SUB HAMDON

The FoHH helped Stoke Carolers hold a Candle Lit Christmas Carol singing event in the Stone Circle on 22nd December. There was spiced apple juice from Michael at Tinker's Bubble, hot chocolate and marshmallows. This was a most enjoyable event under a perfect starry sky and hopefully this will be repeated at the end of this year.

The FOHH will be having a stand again at the Stoke sub Hamdon May Fair so please do not forget to turn up for this great event.



HAM HILL GEOLOGY TRAIL

This self-guided trail has been developed for visitors to follow two short walking routes around some of the most interesting locations on the hill, exploring the unique features of Hamstone. Along the trail they will be guided

to the layers of rock that tell the story of Earth's past and locations where they can spot the fossils of animals that swam in the shallow seas when the rock was formed.

The Friends of Ham Hill played a key part in the creation of the trail, especially by bidding for, and obtaining, funding from external organisations such as the Geologist's Association.

The leaflet is available from outside the ranger's office or by downloading it from:

https://www.southsomersetcountyside.com/media/1301/ssdc_hamhillgeologytrail_a4_web-2.pdf

EVENTS HELD AT HAM HILL

The SSDC Rangers have run a number of events in recent months. These include a geo-cache day run by Chris Warren with thirty eight people participating. You can find more about the geo-caching on the SSDC web-site. This is a great event for families.



Youngsters have also been taught how to light a fire with steel, how to toast marshmallows and cook nettle bread, and have helped paint owl boxes. The Rangers also ran a "Find the Yeti" event with ten children attending the event.



On the Christmas Crafts Day eight children learnt how to make paper stars, wreaths and natural tree decorations.

Future Events

Storytelling at Ham Hill Country Park

Thursday 16th February
3.30pm – 5.30pm
 £5.00 per child

Ancient places all have stories to tell – some happy, some sad, some spooky and some are just weird!

Ham Hill has thousands of years of folklore surrounding it and we would like to share some of it with you.

Sit around the fire with hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows and listen to Caroline regale some of Ham Hill's secrets.

Booking required - **Max 30**
 Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult, accompanying adult free.
 Please wrap up warm and wear sensible footwear.

Mother's Crafts at Ham Hill Country Park

Saturday 25th March 2017
10.00am – 12.00pm
 £5.00 per child

Woodland craft gifts (using materials on site).

Make a personalised handmade gift for your mum or special family member. Bring a photo of you with your family and make a picture frame from wood.

You can also make jewellery from clay and a card with your gift.

Booking required – **Max 15**
 Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult, accompanying adult free.

The Eggathon at Ham Hill Country Park

Tuesday 11th April
10.00am – 12.00pm
 £5.00 per child

How eggciting! This is a real Easter Eggstravaganza of traditional egg games. We will start by painting our eggs and decorating them.

Then we will take part in an egg rolling competition; will your egg roll the furthest? And egg rolling races where you push your egg along a track with a hazel stick and finish with a good old Easter egg hunt. There might even be some chocolate ones!

Booking required - **Max 24**


Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult, accompanying adult free.

For further details look on our website or Facebook page

CONTACT

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www.visitsouthsomerset.com/hamhill

Find us on  Ham Hill Country Park

FoHH working in partnership with SSDC Countryside

