



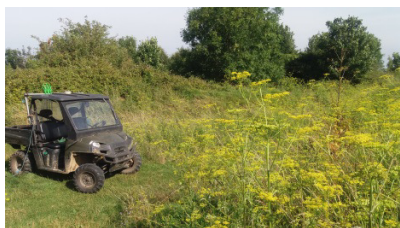
FoHH NEWSLETTER



Summer 2017

New Ranger

We now have a new Assistant Ranger at Ham Hill Country Park; her name is Catherine (Kat). Kat has settled in very quickly, enthusiastic and always looking for something to do. Kat joined us from SSDC's Horticultural Depot. Hayden has been back again working the summer cover.



are unable to use weed killer because it would kill all surrounding wild plants and grasses. This is the worst job for the volunteers and we prayed for rain as it makes it easier to pull the parsnip roots from the soil. We have cleared over 80 acres this summer.

STOKE MAY FAIR

We again had a pitch at the Stoke May Fair. It was attended by Mick, Judy, Mike Zair and Terry with a couple of press-ganged wives. We managed to raise about £140 from the sale of Bee Boxes and Ham Hill Lottery. These events are important for raising funds for projects.



VOLUNTEERS

The work so far this quarter has been filling in hollows between gates, replacing railings in front of the Prince of Wales steps, continual strimming of verges and car parks. We have also cleared the ever growing buddleia on the Northern Spur and seem to have been forever (five weeks) pulling up Wild Parsnip which has grown in abundance. We



MONTACUTE CARNIVAL

We had a float at this year's Carnival where we made a Woolley Mammoth. The mammoth was made by Paul, Ashleigh and myself and painted by Hayden. At the show Kat, Judy, Terry, Katy and son William, Bex Tearle and Ashleigh were dressed as cavemen and women, armed with wooden clubs made by Ashleigh. We won 2nd prize for the float and 1st prize for interacting with the public through the village.

Jon Marshman

Jon has had a few ups and downs but has now been spending more time at home. Judy and Terry visited Jon on 31st July and he was in great form; nearly back to his old comical self. We have now been notified by Katy that Jon has returned home with a care package in place to allow Rachel to work school hours using a carer in the mornings and Jon's mum in the afternoons. Jon still requires the operation to put a plate in his skull (hopefully towards the end of the year) and physio will be ongoing to improve his mobility.

Jon and family all turned up at the Ham Hill Dog Show, it was fantastic to see him out and about again.

Auction Event – 15th October

We are running an Auction Event on 15th October at the Prince of Wales PH on Ham Hill to help raise money for Jon. There will be entertainment including a quiz. All are welcome; please bring your cheque books.



Witcombe Valley

The work on the Witcombe Stream Project started on 7th August and the contractor has completed his work. Paul and the volunteers will then continue the project.



SSDC Stand

Ham Hill Fun Dog Show

On the 13th August we ran the Ham Hill Fun dog show which was brilliantly organised by Donna, Kirsty, Tina, Sara and Sara. It was a fantastic day with a very large number of adults, children and most importantly dogs of all shapes and sizes. Over £1500 was raised to be donated to the NAT (National Animal Trust), Ferne Animal Sanctuary and the FOHH. A very big thankyou to everybody involved in this great event.



BIG Surprise for Paul

And..... we couldn't keep him off the castle!



Away Day 6th July 2017

We were treated to our annual Volunteers' Away Day with a trip to Weymouth and a guided tour around RSPB's Radipole Lake Reserve which everyone found extremely interesting. We then went on to the Nothe Fort for lunch. This is a great place to visit with plenty of history plus stunning views across the Jurassic Coast. Many thanks to SSDC and all involved for a great day out.



Ham Hill Needs You

The FOHH are looking for new members to join the committee. We meet about once a month on a Wednesday afternoon. We would also like you to be able to help in the events we run to raise funds for the projects at Ham Hill. All fresh ideas for fund-raising will be welcome.

Please leave details in the Rangers Office and you will be contacted.

Summer Events a Success

Paul and his staff have had a very busy summer running packed events with to date over 150 children attending.



Sadly James and Lucille leaving Lufton College to return home

Chairman's Report May 2017

Another successful year at Ham Hill! The site won the Green Flag Award yet again and is accredited as a Green Heritage site thanks to the work of the Rangers and a strong band of volunteers.

Our main public event was the Medieval Fayre in September, an excellent show enjoyed by the many participants. There was a successful Dog Show and many smaller events such as bushcraft and Halloween crafts.

Overshadowing the year, however, has been the absence of Jon Marshman due to injuries following a road accident. He is missed by all those involved on the Hill. Our thoughts go out to him and his family and we continue to hope for his recovery.

The work of managing the various habitats on the site has continued. The help of Ashley and Frances in this has been greatly appreciated. Restoration of Pitt Wood through tree planting is now complete a final session taking place in December with much local support.

Of particular note this past year has been the progress made in planning, and gaining funding for, new projects. A Geology Trail to commemorate Hugh Prudden's work has been completed. Projects to restore the

stream and ponds in Witcombe Valley, to create a "natural play space" and to publish walk leaflets are planned.

To finish, I would thank Katy for her help with the group, Paul for his patient support and, of course, the many loyal volunteers who help in all weathers.

Mick Wooden, Chair
17th May 2017

Future Events at Ham Hill Country Park

Find the Yeti Monday 23rd October

10.00am – 12.00pm
£5.00 per child

Booking required – **Max 20**
Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Spooky Stories Monday 30th October

5.00pm to 7.00pm
£5.00 per child

Booking required – **Max 30**
Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Ham Hill Bonfire Friday 5.30pm @ the Rangers Office


**Donation event no need to book
Dogs welcome – no firework*

For further details look on our website or Facebook page

CONTACT

Paul McNeil - 07973 887129

www.southsomersetcountryside.com

Find us on  Ham Hill Country Park

**FoHH working in partnership with
SSDC Countryside**

