



ESSENTIAL WINTER HABITAT MAINTENANCE

WORK PROGRAMME

Volunteers have been very busy this quarter. As well as supporting the Rangers on winter habitat management work such as clearing areas of bramble and scrub, they have helped lay 150 metres of hedge down the Witcombe Track and Norton Lane.

The Woodland Play Zone has also been cleared and the logs that are going to be used for the project have been stripped of bark.



Stripped and ready

Alongside the volunteer work, the Rangers (with the help of students from Castle School, Stoke-sub-

Hamdon and the Explorer Scouts) planted 200 native trees in Pit Wood this winter. Over the last 5 years over 2000 native woodland trees have been planted and most of the wood has now been planted out. The woodland now has a flourishing understorey and the trees planted will increase species diversity, benefitting wildlife for years to come.

In Witcombe Valley the last of the fencing work has coincided with the arrival of spring lambs.



In the stream itself, there is still one leak and it is hoped that the mole responsible for this is tracked down soon.

FoHH NEWSLETTER



Spring 2018

The Rangers have asked that we remind all visitors that, with the young vulnerable lambs in Witcombe Valley, **please keep your dogs on a lead** regardless of age, gender, breed or personality.

CHARITABLE STATUS UPDATED

At a time when District Council funding is being squeezed, the Friends of Ham Hill has found that existing sources of funds are not quite sufficient as we try to make up some of the shortfall. We have also found that some funding bodies will only grant money to registered charities. To enable access to these funds and grants the Friends of Ham Hill has become a Registered Charity - **Reg. Charity No. 1177431**. We shall be posting details later of how you can help us to continue with our support for the Country Park.

SPRING HAS ARRIVED

Spring has been a little late this year due to a light dusting of the white stuff, but the site is now in full flow.



Brimstone butterflies are spreading their wings and looking for some buckthorn or alder buckthorn to lay eggs on.

The site is awash with bees, flies or bugs and “natures hum” has returned. Woodpeckers can be heard “drumming” on trees and Pit Wood is now revealing its first bluebells.



Spring is an amazing season so go for a walk and enjoy it.

WALKING LEAFLETS

The Friends of Ham Hill are producing a series of walking leaflets in time for summer to help you explore the park even more. Look out for them soon in the Rangers' Office and online via Facebook and the “Friends” website



EVENTS HELD AT HAM HILL

DIGGING UP THE PAST

An archaeological drop-in session was held on 15th February where 60 children took part. They had a great time handling and seeing artefacts found at Ham Hill.

SCHOOL VISIT

Our Rangers visited Norton School to do some bush craft and decorate wood cookies with 37 students.

EGG OLYMPICS

On a very blustery and wet Thursday, 17 children visited site to take part in Ham Hill's Egg Olympics. They decorated their eggs, then rolled them down a hill, raced them around a track on a spoon and then looked for eggs to swap for chocolate ones.



WILD FOOD CAFÉ

On 7th April, 11 adults came to visit the site to take part in the wild food café event where they got to eat lots of local plants in breads, risotto, salads and drink nettle tea.

STOKE-SUB-HAMDON MAY FAYRE

The Friends of Ham Hill are having again a stand at the Stoke Fayre on 28th May. The Fayre is a great event and should not be missed. There is free entry and free parking.

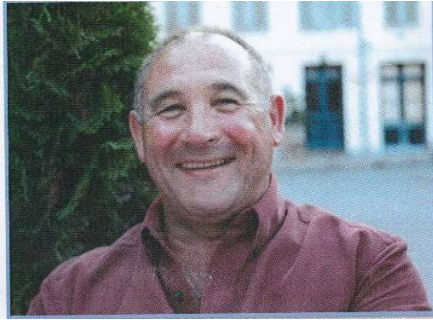
f ONLINE PRESENCE

The Friends of Ham Hill is now sharing our news, events and information through the main Ham Hill Facebook page. Our plans include asking visitors to share memories of Ham Hill, a photo competition and showcasing specific areas or projects that we have helped fund.

The Friends of Ham Hill also have a website, where for example you can find previous versions of the newsletters and other interesting articles.

<https://hamhillfriends.wordpress.com/>

TERRY



This Spring 2018 newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Terry Smart, a wonderful friend of Ham Hill, who sadly passed away in March after a short illness. Terry was a tireless, enthusiastic and fun-loving Volunteer Ranger and a trustee of the Friends of Ham Hill. Everyone who knew Terry will miss him immensely. He was the instigator and driving force behind the Friends of Ham Hill newsletters and his legacy will continue with this and future newsletters, with the blessing and support of his wife, Judy, herself a Volunteer Ranger.

Future Events

Book to avoid disappointment

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

A Bugs Life

Thursday 31st May

10.30am – 1.30pm

Free entry – donations welcome
All children must be accompanied by an adult

Bat Walk at Ham Hill Country Park

Wednesday 11th July

8.00pm – 10.00pm

£6.00 per person (adult or child)

All children must be accompanied by an adult – bring a torch.

The Wild Café at Ham Hill Country Park

Friday 3rd August

10.00am – 12.00pm

Cost £6.00 per child

Booking required

Please note: *Nettle Bread does contain gluten.*

Firestarter's at Ham Hill Country Park

Friday 10th August

10.00am – 12.00pm

Cost £6.00 per child

Grand Designs at Ham Hill Country Park

Friday 17th August

10.00am – 12.00pm

£6.00 per child

Capture the Fort at Ham Hill Country Park

Friday 24th August

10.00am – 12.00pm

£6.00 per child

One of the Rangers favourite events!


For further details see our Facebook page or go to

<https://www.southsomesetcountryside.com/ham-hill/events/>

CONTACT

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Find us on  Ham Hill Country Park

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FoHH working in partnership with SSDC Countryside

