



VOLUNTEERS TESTING PART OF THE PLAYZONE - HONEST!!

## WORK PROGRAMME

Volunteers have been very busy this quarter supporting the rangers on winter habitat management work such as clearing areas of bramble and scrub.

In March, prior to the opening of the Wildwood Play Zone the volunteers were busy clearing down the steps to the area and worked with the rangers to clear the hazel so that the play zone could be clearly seen from the Prince of Wales Pub.



Clearing the steps to the Play zone



Result of a day's hard work

May 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.

## PRIME FOUNDATION UPDATE

We mentioned in the last newsletter (Jan 2019) that we had been given a grant from the Prime

# FoHH NEWSLETTER



## Spring 2019

FOHH is a registered charity no. 1177431

Foundation. Progress has been made with the two elements of the project.

### The new Children's Activity Leaflet for Ham Hill

The Friends and Rangers have designed a children's trail leaflet entitled the 'Ham Hill Roman Treasure Trail' which will take children across Ham Hill looking for clues to answer questions, finishing at the Wildwood Play Zone. The leaflet is currently being designed by a professional designer and will be available for free later in the year.

### The Orienteering Course at Ham Hill

The orienteering course at Ham Hill is also being expanded to encompass Witcombe Valley and the western ramparts. The work for this is being carried out by Quantock Orienteers and the Friends will keep you updated as to when this is completed.



## WILDWOOD PLAY ZONE

There was excitement in the air on Monday 11 March as local school children (Castle and Norton Schools) helped unveil the new 'Wildwood Play Zone'. Thanks to a grant from the People's Postcode Lottery to the Friends of Ham Hill, rangers and volunteers have created a new natural play space full of wooden play features.



With the help of volunteers and rangers the children help to add some creative carved art.

Work began on the site during 2018, with the aim to design the play area to be in keeping with the natural beauty of Ham Hill. The work involved rangers and volunteers stripping the bark from trees to ensure they last longer, digging in the wood and dumping tonnes of wood chips in the area to create soft landing platform underneath the play items.

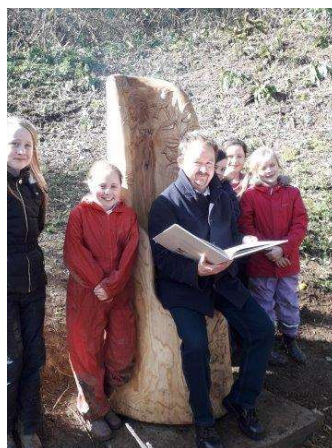


Mick Wooden, Chairman of the Friends of Ham Hill said: "Thanks

to a generous grant from the Postcode Local Trust, we have created natural play space at Ham Hill. The play features have been built, as far as possible, with timber harvested from site and the project has been delivered by the rangers with the help of volunteers.



Activities such as story-telling, den building and climbing have been catered for. This helps us to make the site more accessible to schools and the local community by building a range of wooden play features that reflect the wildlife and heritage of the site. It is well established that outdoor play spaces are important for children's learning and health."



Josef Mesar (Woodcarver) of Barrington Court

With the children from Castle and Norton Schools, rangers and volunteers, Councillor Sylvia Seal

officially opened the new Wildwood Play Zone at Ham Hill Country Park.



## POP-UP ACTIVITY CENTRE

During the summer holidays this year, the rangers, volunteers and Friends of Ham Hill are creating a 'Pop-up Activity Centre' at the Education Centre on Ham Hill. There will be information on local history and wildlife in the centre with some free drop-in activities for all ages. Events will take place over the 6 weeks. More information will be released nearer the time. Keep an eye out at the Rangers Centre, Ham Hill's Facebook page, website and posters around the country park.

## 2020 CALENDAR COMPETITION

We are delighted to launch the 2020 Calendar Photo Competition. Your photo could be the star of the calendar!! The competition is open now until the end of August and the calendar will be on sale in the autumn.

Full info and T&Cs are at:

<https://hamhillfriends.wordpress.com/2020-calendar/>

Send photos to: [FoHH2020@gmail.com](mailto:FoHH2020@gmail.com)

## STOKE-SUB-HAMDON MAY FAYRE

The Friends will again be at the Stoke Fayre on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May. The Fayre is a great event and should not be missed. There is free entry and free parking.

## IRON AGE HILLFORT

As you may have seen in the press recently, South Somerset District Council has purchased 73 acres of historic land at Ham Hill (along with funding contribution from the Friends), which includes extensive archaeological remains.

Find the full SSDC press release at: <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/news/2019/3/iron-age-hillfort-secured-at-ham-hill-following-purchase-of-land/>



## DONATIONS - THANK YOU

There are several FoHH collection boxes at shops, pubs and offices across the area. Your small change makes a big difference and the Friends would like to thank everyone for their continued generosity. If you wish to discuss a personal or business donation, please do contact us at [HamHillFriends@gmail.com](mailto:HamHillFriends@gmail.com)

## FUTURE EVENTS

*Book to avoid disappointment, booking essential for most events*

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

**Egg Olympics**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10.00am – 12.00pm**  
Cost £6.00 per child

**Children's Spring Photography**  
**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10.00am – 12.00pm**  
Cost £7.00 per child

Bring your own SD memory card if you wish to take your photographs home.

Suitable for children aged 6-10

**Bug Life at Ham Hill**  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
**10.00am – 12.00pm**  
Free event – donations welcome

**Wild Food Café for Children**  
**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July**  
**10.00am – 12.00pm**  
Cost £6.00 per child

**Bat Walk**  
**Thursday 1st August**  
**8.00pm – 10.00pm**  
Cost £7.50 per child and per adult

**Fire Starters at Ham Hill Country Park**  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August**  
**10.00am – 12.00pm**  
£6.00 per child  
*One of the Rangers favourite events!*

**Ham Hill Dog Show**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August**  
**10.00am – 3.00pm**

**Den Building**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August**  
**10.00am – 12.00pm**  
£6.00 per child

**Barmy Bats**  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**  
**7.30pm – 9.30pm**  
Cost £7.50 per child/adult

*For further details, see Ham Hill's Facebook page or go to <https://www.southsomersetcountryside.com/ham-hill/events/>*

## FOHH CONTACT

Main email: [hamhillfriends@gmail.com](mailto:hamhillfriends@gmail.com)

2020 Calendar competition -  
[FoHH2020@gmail.com](mailto:FoHH2020@gmail.com)



## SSDC CONTACT


Paul McNeill, Countryside Ranger –  
01935 823617 or 07973 887129

[countryside@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@southsomerset.gov.uk)

[www.southsomersetcountryside.com](http://www.southsomersetcountryside.com)

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 Ham Hill Country Park

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