



PHOTO: SUE PRICE - AN ENTRY IN OUR 2020 CALENDAR COMPETITION

FoHH NEWSLETTER

the Friends of



Spring 2021

FOHH is a registered charity no. 1177431

INTRODUCTION

It has been a year since we last published a newsletter. Inevitably, the Friends of Ham Hill have had their activities curtailed by the pandemic and, like many charities, our fund-raising has been severely impacted. Also, the projects that we helped fund prior to the pandemic were either delayed or postponed. Nevertheless, we have been as busy as we can behind the scenes planning and preparing for the future. So, we wanted to give you all a brief update on what we have been up to and our upcoming plans. As always, we rely on your generous donations and grants for which we thank each and every one of you, so we have also included a reminder of the ways you can continue to support us.

WILDWOOD PLAYZONE EXTENSION

Following the success of the original Woodland Play zone, further work to expand it is underway, thanks to funding from the Somerset Community Foundation.

The new play features are being built, as far as possible, with timber harvested from site by the Rangers. The extension, due to be completed later this year, will include permanent den building frames, stepping stones to link to the existing facilities and a wooden musical instrument.



The Rangers team have been busy selecting timber and processing it ready for the den structures. Each timber is stripped of bark as it helps the timbers last longer once they are in the ground and you can see Izzi in the picture doing just that.

Over the next few weeks, the team will erect the dens.

WOODLAND WELLBEING AT HAM HILL



People are finding these times incredibly challenging, particularly those with mental health issues and pre-existing health conditions. There is much evidence to show that a connection with nature aids wellbeing.

The Friends are keen to play their part helping to rebuild the health and wellbeing of our local community as we emerge from the pandemic and beyond. The Woodland Wellbeing project aims to organise community and family sessions at Ham Hill focusing on mental health and physical wellbeing.

This project will fund a Community Heritage Officer to deliver Woodland Wellbeing sessions at Ham Hill for a community groups as well as providing transport to and from the park.

Funding for this is coming partly from the Co-op Local Community Fund. The more people choose the Friends of Ham Hill as their charitable cause when shopping at the Co-Op stores in Martock and Stoke, the more funds we will raise. Become a Co-Op member at

<https://coop.co.uk/membership>

Find out more about at

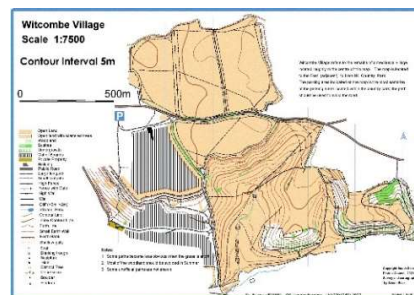
<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/45106>

PRIME ORIENTEERING TRAIL MAP

The Friends were awarded a grant by the Prime Foundation (the charity linked to Prime PLC, the healthcare property development organisation who have delivered several projects for Yeovil District Hospital) for two projects.

The first of these was the Roman Treasure Trail which was completed in Summer 2019 and has been enjoyed by many visitors since then.

The second was the expansion of the existing orienteering course at Ham Hill Country Park, so that it covers the whole of the site. This involved designing marker positions, creation of a new map and installation of the new markers across the site.



HAM HILL DOG SHOW



Though “real” events could not happen in the last year, the organisers of the Ham Hill Dog Show held two well-

supported virtual dog shows. The dog show is another long-standing friend of the Friends and we thank the organisers and the participants for your continued generosity.



The Flying Fox Running Club is a long-standing friend of the Friends, generously supporting us over the years.

In 2020, they organised a Lockdown Mini Roman Running Challenge and made a generous donation to us. After consulting the Ranger team, we are using the funds for additional tools and equipment for the Volunteer Rangers, the hardy group who themselves give up their own time to support the Rangers across the park.

And a big Thank You to YOU!!

We are always grateful at how much is collectively raised by folks who pop their change into one of our collection boxes – it really makes a difference.

Whilst not all locations are open at the moment. Collection boxes can be found at the Norton Community Shop, the Prince of Wales pub, The Priory Café and The Fleur de Lys Pub in Stoke Sub Hamdon, and Humphries Kirk Solicitors in Crewkerne, with more places to come when we can.

For the on-line shoppers, remember to choose the Friends of Ham Hill as your selected charity with Amazon Smile. We are looking at other online options – watch this space.

And, finally, we also receive a number of donations from individuals wishing to support us for various personal reasons – thank you all.

NEW CHAIRPERSON

In September, the Friends held their delayed AGM. Our long-serving chair, Mick Wooden, stepped down and the committee elected Steve Poolman as the new Chair.

Steve has been a member of the Friends for many years and is also a volunteer Ranger.

We hope you will join the Friends and SSDC in thanking Mick for his excellent contribution and wish Steve well in his new role. Mick continues to be an active member of the Friends.

Speaking of which, if you feel inspired to want to become friend of Ham Hill, do drop us an email at HamHillFriends@gmail.com

A new Friends' website coming soon.....

FoHH CONTACT

Main email:
hamhillfriends@gmail.com



Ham Hill Country Park



WELCOME TO THE NEW RANGERS

Funding from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage has helped SSDC appoint three new rangers. The pandemic meant that work by the Rangers and volunteers was greatly reduced last year, with two rangers being temporarily redeployed to COVID-19 support work and the volunteers restricted in numbers and activities. This, coupled with the last 12 months seeing the highest visitor numbers ever recorded at Ham Hill, left the small ranger team depleted, with important work still needing to be done.



A big welcome to Ben, Edd, and Izzi, who are already making a huge difference on site, working alongside the long-standing (and legendary!) Head Ranger Paul McNeill.

SSDC CONTACT

Paul McNeill, Countryside Ranger - 01935 823617 or 07973 887129

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www.southsomersetcountryside.com

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South Somerset
District Council

HERITAGE FUND PROJECT UPDATE

by Rachael Waites SSDC
Countryside Manager

In March 2020 Ham Hill Country Park secured initial support and development funding of £98,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to take forward plans for a £1.6 million project that will help to conserve and protect Ham Hill for the future. The project entitled “Uncovering Ham Hill’s Past for its Future” seeks to make the site better for visitors, improve habitats for wildlife, conserve archaeological features and increase volunteer and staff numbers.

Despite various delays due to COVID-19, the project is progressing, and SSDC hopes to be able to carry out some trial activities and events face to face from April 12th which will help to shape what we deliver at Ham Hill in the future. SSDC is also consulting with all of its visitors and stakeholders during the late spring and summer on its plans to make Ham Hill better for visitors, better for wildlife, conserve archaeological features and be more sustainable for the future.

SSDC will be working closely with the Friends of Ham Hill as the project develops to ensure that the community has a voice and input into the activities and management of Ham Hill and to secure additional match funding for various aspects of the Heritage Fund project.