



PHOTO: FRIENDS OF HAM HILL RECEIVING THE CHEQUE FROM CO-OP

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. Though activities were curtailed last year, the funds you helped raise enabled the Friends to support some great initiatives towards the end of last year as well as planning for this year; read on for the stories.

We're also looking back to an event from 11 years ago that many of you may have been involved in – "From The Top Of The Hill". We'll hopefully be delving into the past with other stories in future newsletters.

Of course, we're optimistically looking forward to starting (and re-starting) those projects and events that were postponed in the last couple of years.

TREE PLANTING 2021

As part of National Tree Week, the Friends had secured a grant from The Conservation

Volunteers to plant 500 trees and alongside this SSDC Countryside received a donation from Florence's Street Clean Mission of £1500 to plant a further 250 trees in Pit Wood.



A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone that came tree planting in December last year. 🌳 Approximately 400 native trees were planted in just 2 hours.

WOODLAND WELLBEING AT HAM HILL

A big **THANK YOU** to all the Co-Op members who chose the Friends for the Co-Op Local Community Fund in 2021. As a

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FoHH is a registered charity no. 1177431

result, we received this rather large cheque! The money is funding our "Woodland Wellbeing at Ham Hill" initiative supporting community and family sessions at Ham Hill, focusing on mental health and physical wellbeing, especially to aid our community in its recovery from Covid-19.

An initial three sessions with Yeovil Huddle (supporting new and expectant parents) were led by Edd Chilcott, Community Heritage Officer at SSDC in September and further sessions with Yeovil 4 Family (a church-led organisation supporting families with complex and challenging needs) in October. Your generosity enables us to fund more sessions in 2022 as well as the transport to and from the Country Park.

Anyone wishing to know more can contact

Edward.Chilcott@southsomerset.gov.uk

LOOKING BACK: FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL by John Day (FoHH)

Some years ago, it was decided to have a Ham Hill Fayre which was an event from years gone by. In 2011 this event took the form of "From the Top of the Hill, which celebrated the arrival of an Iron Age tribe and the settlement of a community. This was supported by SSDC and Pauline Burr, the Arts Development Officer was able to award the Friends a grant of £1000 together with a funding of £4000 from the SSDC Countryside Team.

From the Top of the Hill was a processional performance which started at the Norton Car Park on 20th June 2011. It started with the tribe arriving and discovering gifts from the Hill (participants: Castle School, Foundations Dance Group, Albion Horns and Stanchester School).



The procession then passed the following tableaux:

The Hill gives FIRE (participants: Albion Horns, Bridgwater Youth, Castle School)



The Hill gives WATER (participants: Albion Horns, Bridgwater Youth Theatre, Castle School)



The Hill gives AIR (participants: Stanchester Choir, Bridgwater Youth Theatre, Castle School, Little Fishes Group)



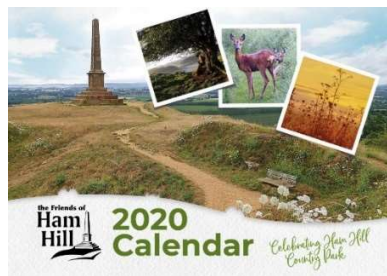
The Hill gives METAL (participants: South Petherton Gamalan Group, Bridgwater Youth Theatre, Maiden Beech School)



It concluded with the gifts from the Hill being passed to the Blacksmith enabling settlement to start. It was a well-attended event held on a bright sunny day.



FOHH CALENDAR



It's back!! After the success of our 2020 calendar, the Friends of Ham Hill are running another photo competition this year and your picture could be the star of the 2023 calendar!!

We'll officially launch the competition in April (just in time for your Easter visits!).

All the rules, regs and how to enter will be here on Facebook and our website. Watch this space!!

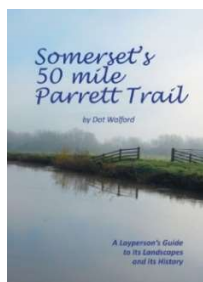
A BIG Thank You to YOU!

We are always grateful at how much is collectively raised by those who pop their change into our collection boxes or send through a donation– it really makes a difference.

Our 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.

For the on-line shoppers, remember to choose the Friends of Ham Hill as your selected charity with Amazon Smile, PayPal or the donate button on our website..

NEW BOOK PUBLISHED



FOHH are delighted to let you know that our friend and local author, Dot Walford, has published a book all about the Parrett Trail, which passes through Ham Hill Country Park.

To find out more about the book, you can contact Dot at westcountrywalkingtrails@btinternet.com and, for bookings on the talk/lunch, contact poldenwines@gmail.com

HAM HILL DOG SHOW

The Ham Hill Dog Show, a long-standing and generous supporter of the Friends, has announced its date for Sunday 14th August 2022.

HAM HILL RANGERS UPDATE



There has been a change in staffing recently at Ham Hill from the left:

Paul McNeill Countryside Ranger
Jason Fontana, Assistant Countryside Ranger
Jay Bargery, Trainee Assistant Countryside Ranger

HERITAGE FUND PROJECT UPDATE

FoHH are working closely with SSDC on its National Lottery Heritage Fund project, 'Uncovering Ham Hill's past for its future'. Indeed, the project helped fund the Friends' new website last year. Many of you may have popped by during half-term to see the information displayed at the Ranger Centre, as well as enjoying the activities with the Rangers. If you missed it, you could see the information panels online at: <http://www.visitsouthsomerset.com/.../ham-hill-country...>

FoHH CONTACT

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Ham Hill Country Park

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