

# FOD

**Friends of the Downs**

Avon Gorge+

# AG

**Issue 25**

**Autumn 2017**





# Chairman's Report August 2017

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February 2018 will be ten years since FOD+AG was created as part of the requirement of the Local Authority to have a user group for Green Flag applications. It is interesting to look back at the various stages we have gone through to get where we are to-day. We spent two or three years finding our feet, identifying our 'baggage', clarifying what was our role. Let me refer to it as **Stage One**.

**Stage Two:** The next four to five years we were getting established as a key user group. We earned respect from others. We were offered a seat, but no voice on the Downs Committee. Good working relationships were established with individuals and groups. We attracted a quality membership who worked hard and cared.

**Stage Three:** We were often informed that we had earned respect regarding the caring for the Downs and Avon Gorge. Quality of our membership was noticeable. However we had serious losses to the Committee due to one individual's poor health, other commitments of another member, and a death. Restoration of the Haven and the Victorian Steps were major achievements. Monitoring, landscape history, education, maintenance, Walks and Talks all continue to be well supported.

**Stage Four: Now and the Future** - The very existence of the Downs could well be under threat. Many see the Downs purely in terms of income generation. Opposition to activities such as parking on the grass areas has largely been ineffective. Private sector involvement might be a partial answer. Comprehensive, transparent accounting is needed. There are signs of some improvement on this key issue. The need for user groups with a voice is all too clear. We have quality voices able to contribute to the key debate as to the future of the Downs and Avon Gorge. Let us all celebrate the achievements while keeping a watchful eye on the uncertain future.

**Jack Penrose**



We all know that the Downs, and indeed all Bristol's parks, face a difficult time in the future because of financial constraints. There are therefore a great many issues facing your committee and requiring thought and sensible action. So it is a good time to invite members to put themselves forward to join the FOD+AG Committee. The work is varied and interesting and with a wide range of skills represented the Committee is strong and effective. Everything we do is in the interests of the Downs and Gorge. Do feel free to contact committee members to discuss further. The AGM is coming up on November 15<sup>th</sup> and that would be a good moment to join us.

**Robin Haward**

*"I joined FOD+AG in late 2016, and spotting a 'young un' in their parlance, (I'm 44), was quickly co-opted on to the Committee - presumably to attract the youth vote.*

*I was made to feel very welcome and found the quality of debate and discussion in committee fascinating and learned a lot about the history and operation of the Downs. I soon volunteered to help put together the newsletter. This has given me to a chance to learn a useful new skill (Microsoft Publisher) and also get to know lots of people both from FOD+AG and other community organisations in Bristol."*

**Luke Hudson**



## **Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock**

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In 2015, as its key project contributing to Bristol's European Green Capital year, Avon Wildlife Trust transformed this derelict site of former sports pitches in the Avon Gorge into its newest nature reserve.

Assisted by teams of volunteers including school children, scouts, cubs and brownies as well as corporate groups, AWT planted 4200 trees. A wildflower meadow was established by harrowing an area and re-sowing with a wildflower and grasses meadow mix. Another smaller area was also plug-planted with various wildflowers including Cowslip, Ox-Eye Daisy, Birds Foot Trefoil and Yarrow. However the major part of the original grassed area, with the assistance of an annual hay cut, has been allowed to develop with the natural spread of flowers and other plants from the adjacent wildflower meadows and elsewhere.

Three ponds were created and a volunteer cabin incorporating a kitchen area and disabled toilet facilities was also constructed. The cabin is now used regularly for educational events as well as by a dedicated group of volunteers who meet at the reserve on the second Sunday of each month to carry out essential conservation tasks.

More than two years on from its official opening in April 2015, it's pleasing to see that the majority of the trees, more than 80%, have survived and are doing well. Last Winter the reserve's volunteers constructed a dead hedge around the main pond in order to discourage dogs from swimming and disturbing the plant and animal life. This has helped it flourish, making it more attractive to frogs, toads and newts, including great crested newts which have bred there for the first time this year. Five species of dragonfly and





## **Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock (Con)**

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three of damselfly have also been sighted at the ponds. Other typical pond invertebrate species such as Pond Skaters, Back Swimmers, Whirligig and various diving beetles, together with snails have also colonised the ponds.

The establishment of wildflower meadows has been successful as can be seen from the photograph taken earlier this year.

The reserve's volunteer warden also undertakes a butterfly transect and has recorded 22 different species with the grassland species of Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Ringlet being the most frequent. Other Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge also regularly monitor flowering plants on the reserve. A total of 43 species of birds have been seen.

Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock is adjacent to two other nature re-



serves, the Woodland Trust's Bishops Knoll and Bristol City Council's Old Sneed Park and a very pleasant walk can be made through all three sites from a footpath leading down from Bramble Lane. The reserve connects with the Avon Gorge Special Area of Conservation which is also a SSSI, and a Site of Nature Conservation Interest. The importance of the whole area, together with this reserve and the nearby Downs, is recognised by the City Council including it within Bristol Wildlife Network in the Local Plan.



## **Bennett's Patch & White's Paddock**

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The reserve has now become the home of “The Wicker Whales” which have migrated from their original 2015 location in Millennium Square and provide an imposing and iconic sight for passers-by on The Portway.

**Tim Clarke**

**AWT volunteer, and member of FOD+AG**

## **FOD+AG Social Wednesday 27th September**

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It is that time of year—**FODAG social 6pm Wednesday 27th September at the Downs Cafe**. All welcome especially new members. There will be delicious finger food done by Gayle's team at the Downs Cafe and a reasonably priced licensed bar with wine, beer and fruit juices. It will also be possible to purchase a range of hot drinks from the cafe. Members will be asked for a donation towards the cost of the food. This is a good chance to get to know other members and to share concerns and issues about the Downs. Inside if wet. There will be a short walk led by Richard Bland at 6.00 prompt. Please let us know if you are coming and numbers (so that we can get the catering right) by **noon on 25th September** to Robin on the form on the FOD+AG website events page.



# **New Conservation Initiative**

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This winter we will be running a mid-month conservation activity which will be additional to the Deep Litter Clearance scheme. It will operate on the second Sunday of the month, and will normally run for about two hours. However the first event will be on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>, which will be primarily designed to attract students who have met us at the Freshers' Fair on the Downs on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Downs Ranger has approved four kinds of activity areas that we will be involved with. We will initially work to remove Ivy which is starting to grow up avenue and specimen trees. We will also help on removing wood chip material from clumps that were removed last winter under the scrub clearance scheme. This will be done to speed the process by which former clumps revert to limestone grassland.

There are two other maintenance jobs which will be tackled. Firstly to keep the Haven free from leaves and rubbish, and secondly to keep the Victorian Steps clear of fallen branches and with a clear drainage gully. Details of these activities will be posted in the usual way on the website and in the newsletter.

We also want to monitor the scrub clearance scheme during the growing season and a scheme has been trialled this year. Details will be outlined next spring.

**Richard Bland**



## **“360—The Observatory”**

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After three years of hard work, on Thursday 12 August Ian Johnson opened his rooftop café at the Observatory in time to catch the crowds watching the Balloon Fiesta lift off. It is called 360 because you can see all round you, and because a very famous panorama of Bristol was drawn from this point in 1830. The opening transformed the Observatory into a major Downs facility. The café is open daily from ten to five, and is entered from the south end. You ascend a gentle spiral to reach an open space with the service counter is at the far end. There are stunning views across to Leigh Woods and Dundry—you feel like the captain of a ship on the bridge. You are in practice invisible from ground level, and you have the impression of complete privacy, while you watch the world go by.

*The View from the Observatory—William West (1830)*



The two traditional features of the Observatory, the Camera Obscura and the Cave are largely unchanged, but the steep ascent to the Camera Obscura also now includes a museum which is almost complete. The museum explains the history of the Camera Obscura, a device crucial to artists in the past, and the history of the building itself. Entrance to both attractions costs £4 Adult / £2.50 Child. There are also dramatic reproductions of the picture that William West painted of the Gorge from the top of the Observatory, and copies of the panorama of Bristol drawn by Thomas Robotham. The descent



## “360—The Observatory”

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to the cave has been little changed, but is as exciting and challenging the first time is it was when William West opened it in 1837.

The next step is to complete the ground floor space, which will be done



within the month. This will serve as a café when it is wet and in the winter, It will be bookable via the internet, and also available as an evening meeting place seating 70.

The transformation of the building is to my mind the most impressive and exciting development on the Downs since the creation of Café Retreat by the water tower. It also links closely with the magnificent Visitor Centre at the Suspension Bridge. A history of the Observatory will appear next month.

To find out more go to [www.cliftonobservatory.com](http://www.cliftonobservatory.com) This has a lovely drone video of the building, which is open 10am-5pm, seven days a week throughout the spring and summer,(10am-4pm autumn / winter.)

**Richard Bland**



# **FOD+AG and Practical Conservation**

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In the first of two articles, and in response to a question raised by one of our newer Committee members at a recent meeting, we present a report on a project undertaken at, and in conjunction with, the University of Bristol Botanic Garden. It has involved seeding and monitoring the development of a calcareous wildflower meadow representing the Downs and was begun in the spring of 2012. It has thus accumulated 5 years-worth of data. Regular readers of the FOD+AG Newsletter will know that a report is published in its pages at the end of each monitoring year and a more detailed report for each year can be found on our website.

An illustrated outline account of the process and progress of this project is presented here as we approach the end of our sixth season. It focuses on the study's relevance to habitat conservation and the contribution that it makes to the role played by the Botanic Garden in educating students, Friends and visitors about the natural habitats of the South West and in protecting some of their rare and endangered species.

## ***The Meadow awaiting planting—Winter 2011/12***



### **Downs meadow grassland project**

A plot adjacent to the part of the Botanic Garden representing the Avon Gorge and dedicated to Habitats of the South West, was identified.

In 2011 the topsoil was stripped and the area covered in limestone chippings. In July seed was gathered from the Downs meadows and sown in



# The Wildflower Meadow

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April 2012. These seeds germinated poorly and a further sowing took place in September 2012. The resulting plant growth has been regularly monitored by volunteers from the Friends of the Downs and Gorge throughout the subsequent summers. The site is mown once a year, and used for the bee festival; otherwise there has been minimum intervention in the process of change. The use by the bee festival helped to consolidate the chippings. Otherwise there is no soil as such, the site has very few nutrients and is very free draining. It is thus a challenge to exploit for any plant.

Initially the grasses flourished, but by autumn 2012 thirty-four flowering plant species became established, though only 25% of the surface area was covered in vegetation. In 2013 sixty-two species were established, and cover increased to 41%. In 2014 The species total remained the same but cover increased to 63%. This year cover has risen to almost 90%, but the number of species has declined to fifty-four as a few species have come to dominate. One dominant group is Peaflowers (Leguminous plants), which make their own nitrate fertiliser. They include Red Clover, Black Medick, Hop Trefoil, Birdsfoot Trefoil and Kidney Vetch. The other dominant plants have deep roots that probably enable them to reach into the soil underlying the chippings. They are Carrot, Ribwort Plantain, and Knapweed.

Every year some plants have vanished, and new plants have appeared. In 2016 it was exciting to find plants of Centaury and Ploughman's Spikenard and in 2017, Great Knapweed and Harebell. The site is very attractive to na-



tive butterflies, which have also been monitored. So far the site is still signifi-



# FOD+AG and Practical Conservation

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cantly different from the Downs meadows themselves, mainly because the latter benefit from 2,000 years of sheep grazing, and the development of a thin soil. But it is also a fascinating and instructive study in the struggle for survival. A full report is available from [rbland673@gmail.com](mailto:rbland673@gmail.com).

Amongst the headlines from the project so far we include the following:

- Successfully establishing a 'model' limestone meadow, one of the most endangered habitats in the UK.
- Highlighting the crucial role of the semi-parasite of grasses, Yellow Rattle in the process.
- Encouraging 50% of the indigenous Downs grass species to colonise the site.
- Creating an alkaline substrate able to eliminate common weed species of neutral soils.
- Monitoring the development of the meadow community from bare ground (2012), to an average ground cover of 91% (August 2016)
- Observing, with fluctuations, the evolution over 5 years of a limestone meadow community with 12+ species of grasses and 55+ species of dicotyledonous flowering plants.
- Recognising the absence from our meadow of 16+ species forming part of the Downs' meadows. NB in 2017 two of them—Harebell and Burent Saxifrage were recorded.

For the Botanic Garden, it has provided an attractive and useful feature in its self-appointed task of introducing visitors and students to plants they might then be able to track down on the Downs itself and to increasing their understanding of an important, but critically threatened habitat in the UK as a whole. In the future It will seek to maintain populations of rare species native to this habitat, as it is already doing for iconic species of the Avon Gorge and the Mendips, and in due course will extend this conservation program to species of the Somerset Levels.



# The Wildflower Meadow



*The Wildflower Meadow in Spring 2017*

As the plant community has evolved we have also been monitoring the butterflies at the Botanic Garden. Next time we will report on the results of this survey, in parallel with our UKBMS observations of the 2 transects monitored on the Downs and Avon Gorge since 2010. This will illustrate a further ecological insight into conservation issues and the practical role which FOD+AG has at the heart of its *raison d'être*.

**Martin Collins**



# **Travellers on the Downs**

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Travellers have a lifestyle based on the concept of freedom which has been part of European tradition for centuries and part of human survival for millennia. People are entitled to live a different lifestyle, based on different values. They do, however, need to respect our rules. We need to be tolerant of their eccentricities, and accept their occasional presence.

FODAG members have understandably been unhappy this summer by Travellers who have flouted the by-laws, rendered attractive areas of the Downs essentially unusable by the rest of the public, and left a good deal of litter behind.

The Council has a well-managed Travellers site in Kings Weston. There is a Council Officer charged with dealing with illegal occupation of Council land. The legal process is that the land owner has to formally notify the Travellers that they will be evicted by a certain date, and if they have not left the eviction is then carried out by a Bailiff, assisted by the police. Provided no crimes have been committed the role of the police is to ensure that public order is maintained.

If you see Travellers arriving you should first ring the Council main switchboard on 0117 922 2000, which is manned 24 hours a day, and will ensure relevant officers are informed. Alternately during working hours you could inform Ben Skuse, who is in charge of the Downs maintenance team. His e-mail is [ben.skuse@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:ben.skuse@bristol.gov.uk). Once the legal wheels are set in motion the process normally takes about a week.



## **Remarkable Men in their Flying Machines**

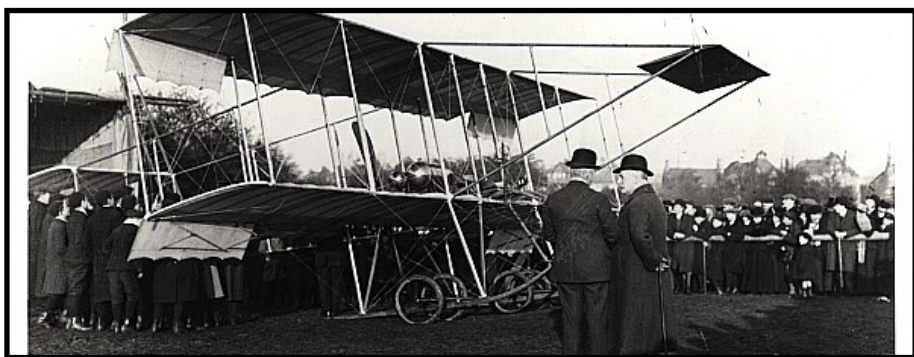
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Many would find it hard to believe that aeroplanes have taken off and landed on Durdham Down. Yet incredible as it might seem this actually happened. The Downs were used for early demonstration flights for the Bristol Boxkite, the first taking place on Saturday 12th November 1910.

This extraordinary spectacle was witnessed by tens of thousands of citizens from all social classes. Reports of the time state that the Downs 'were black with people' as they thronged to get the best view.

Some days earlier a large tent had been erected near the Sea Walls to serve as a hanger for these fine aeroplanes. This Single canvas structure housed not one but two of the miraculous flying machines and generated huge interest.

At 8.40am that Saturday morning the Bristol Biplane was wheeled out for its inaugural Bristol flight, conditions were less than perfect with early morning mist persisting. Luckily the plateau where the trial was to take place was sufficiently clear for takeoff. One of the pilots Mr M Jullerot treated his passenger Mr Stanley White to an amazing ten minute trip around the perimeter of the Downs reaching the dizzy height of one hundred feet. Further demonstration flights were delayed as the weather took a turn for the worse but by early afternoon the intrepid aviators were ready to go again.



***Sir George White with the Box Kite on the Downs***

By now word of this phenomenal spectacle had spread across the City and beyond and thousands more sightseers had flocked to the Downs. Cars,



# Remarkable Men in Their Flying Machines

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carriages, bicycles and horses were everywhere as visitors scrambled for the best view. One of the earlier visitors was Sir George White Chairman of the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company {Later to become BAC}

That afternoon the weather was still not ideal but excitement grew among the vast crowds that something was going to happen, the expectation was palpable, the atmosphere electric. Finally at 2.45pm to great cheers the flying machine was wheeled out from its hanger. At 3.0'clock on the dot and on the arrival of the Sherriff Sir George White gave the order to fly. But even now at the eleventh hour the flight seemed in doubt; the excited crowds had by now surrounded the aeroplane to such an extent that it looked as if it would be impossible to takeoff.

However the masses were not to be disappointed, the Police, ably led by Superintendent Hazell quickly cleared a space for the flyers and to ringing cheers the famous French aviator M Tetard took his seat in the biplane and fired up the powerful engine. Spectators in eager anticipation watched as the plane taxied for some distance across the turf towards Stoke Road. At last the intrepid pilot slowed, turned his plane, hesitated for the slightest moment and then thundered back towards the Seawalls, engine racing as he fought to gain airspeed. At last and to a mighty roar from the assembled populace the Bristol Biplane was airborne and heading out in a wide sweep towards Seawalls and in a great arc turned back towards the Reservoir {Water tower} Not content with this and most likely to treat the mighty audience M Tetard embarked on an even wider circuit finally landing as light as a bird to great applause. A further flight was planned, but soon after 4pm with the weather worsening it was decided that it would be unsafe to do so.

In the context of the time this spectacle would have been a truly wondrous demonstration of early flight. Who could have predicted the development of flying machines and in just over one hundred years the huge worldwide industry it begat.

**Robert Westlake**



# Monitoring Goats in 'The Gully'

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The arrival of six goats to transform the Gully in 2012 was quite controversial. English Nature had successfully tried introducing feral goats in Cheddar Gorge and the National Trust was about to begin its use of cattle in Leigh Woods. It became clear that traditional plants were suffering as a result of low woodland maintenance and that English woods were becoming too overgrown and dark. The Gully had, over the past century become overgrown with scrub, and many of the rare limestone grassland plants for which it was famous when James White wrote *Flora* in 1912, were only surviving in remote pockets.

The first stage of the plan was to remove many of the larger trees, and cut back Hazel, Buddleia and Ash using human labour and ropes. The change was dramatic, and opposed by some who were concerned about the loss of trees, and the change to the habitat created by leaving a lot of the arisings in situ, to rot down over time. The next phase was to build an enclosure that did not destroy the visual amenity of the site, which was done with great skill.

I carried out vegetation surveys in 2010 and in 2012 just after the goats arrived. These produced a total of 84 species, of which 19 were tree species. Two surveys were carried out in 2015 (July and September) They found a total of 129 species, 15 of them new, but missing 15 species previously recorded. This does not mean that they had ceased to be present, as the slopes are very steep and some species are confined to very small areas.

In 2016 surveys in April and July found 129 species including 20 new plant species, several of them spring flowering, but missed 40 that had been previously found, mainly because there should have been a later survey to catch late flowering species. In 2017 there have been four surveys that found 138 species, including 30 not previously recorded, and it only missed 11 of the 152 species found over the years. This is remarkable for a small area. According to Bristol Environmental Record Centre the average number of species in each one kilometre square in the region was c150 in 2000. Apart from the Bristol Onion rarer plants include Bloody Cranesbill, Yellow Wort, Spurge Laurel, Ploughmans Spikenard, Devils Bit Scabius, Dropwort, Common Gromwell, Eyebright, Horseshoe Vetch, Musk Thistle, and Vervain.

**Richard Bland**



## Blue Plaque on The Downs:

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The Blue Plaque scheme links people of the past with buildings of the present and is administered by English Heritage; but did you know that the Downs has its very own Blue Plaque.



It can be found at Stoke Road and is fixed above the entrance to the Ladies' cloakroom. The Blue Plaque celebrates the life of an ordinary yet quite remarkable woman, Mrs Victoria Hughes.

Victoria was a small, softly spoken, modest woman who lived on nearby Black Boy Hill. Her husband Richard had been badly wounded in the Great War and she found herself as the principal breadwinner.

It was 1929, and for many this was a time of great hardship and poverty. Victoria was obliged to take a position as the attendant at the ladies cloakroom near the Clifton end of the Suspension Bridge. She worked two days a week for the princely sum of 4 shillings and sixpence. Victoria worked at several other ladies facilities around the City but finished up on the Downs at Stoke Road. It would be a fair assessment to say that Victoria was an ordinary, unsophisticated working class woman and when she started working on the Downs was unaware of the sordid twilight trade that flourished there.

During this time between the two wars the Downs and in particular Ladies' Mile was a notorious location for prostitutes to ply their trade. A few of the girls were in their twenties but some were much older, many still working well into their seventies. Not all hailed from Bristol and Victoria often noted lilting Welsh accents.



## **Victoria Hughes (1897-1978\_**

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Prostitution as always was a very dangerous profession and the Downs was not a safe place to be after dark. There were no outreach centres, health care or medication for the prostitutes and the Police continuously harassed the girls and had little sympathy for working women that were assaulted by their clients. Sexually transmitted diseases were rife for both girls and their clients with little by way of treatment.

Often it would be to the Ladies Cloakroom that these wretched women turned to for shelter and temporary respite and it was here that they were befriended by Victoria Hughes with offerings of tea, sympathy and support. Victoria, despite her modest background struck up a rapport with many of the working girls, she never condemned or moralised about the girls' choice of occupation. Victoria was only too well aware of her own impoverished circumstances to be judgemental of others.

The working girls appreciated Victoria's warmth, compassion and motherly care and would often share their concerns and their worries with her. Victoria was always there for them offering advice and support.

Victoria by her own account was a good listener and keen observer of the human condition. She used her unique relationship with the tarts and a large lined notebook to record anecdotes, conversations and her impressions of this nefarious trade.

It was many years later in 1977 that Victoria who by now had been retired some 15 years decided that all her notes should be put to some good use and working with local journalist David Foot and in her own words penned a remarkable book faithfully documenting 33 years of public service.

The book Ladies' Mile is considered a valuable social document faithfully recorded and a reminder of Bristol's recent past.

**Robert Westlake**

**Source material:** *Ladies Mile*, by Victoria Hughes & David Foot, Abson Books 1977



## Death of a Goat - 29th July

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On Saturday 29 July one of the six goats that have been in the Gully enclosure since July 2011 died. A dog got loose near Ladies Mile on the Downs, and somehow entered the Goat Enclosure, chased one of the goats over the cliff edge above the Portway, and both the dog and the goat were killed by the fall. The bodies were recovered by the Downs Ranger and the cause of death confirmed as a broken neck. The animal was in every other way healthy. The dog owners were unsurprisingly distraught.

The incident confirms the need to ensure that all dogs within the enclosure are always on a lead, and a new notice on the kissing gate has re-affirmed this. It is suspected that the dog may have got in using the machinery gateway on the northern edge of the gully, and additional wiring has been added to the bottom of that gate. The Friends of the Downs are responsible for monitoring the goats at weekends, and we have a rota organised by Martin Collins. The monitoring is primarily concerned with ensuring the goats are healthy, and there has been only one incident of lameness in the five years. But it also asks us to check that the six kissing gates are all functioning properly, and that the fence is secure. The fence has only been breached once, when a Black Pine collapsed over it three years ago, but I have occasionally observed individuals climbing over the fence by the North West kissing gate, which distorts and potentially weakens the fence.

There are now five goats remaining, and they have done a superb job removing a great mass of Brambles and Buddleia and Ash seedlings, as well as chewing the bark of numerous small trees. As a result this has brought far more light to the surface of the Gully, and is transforming the plant life. I have wondered whether, in a cold February, it might be necessary to introduce artificial food, and at some point it may be appropriate to use a different grazing species. Such decisions are the responsibility of Natural England who set up the experiment in the first place. The objective is to recreate the limestone grassland habitat that existed a century ago. The goats have also removed much of the Ivy which bound together parts of the surface that in some places are real scree slopes. Such a habitat is very rare in this region, and interesting in its own right, and I suspect very little is known about it as a habitat. There must be a DPhil there somewhere.



## Death of a Goat - 29th July

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The Gully itself has an interesting history. In the 1840s there was a very dramatic water pumping station built by Brunel as part of a failed enterprise to bring clean water to the citizens of Bristol. Further developments in and around the Gully included the building of the ventilation shaft to the Severn Beach Railway Line in 1876, the Portway in 1922, and the Northern Stormwater Interceptor in 1962.

The Black Pines on the West face of the Gully were planted in the 1880s as part of efforts at the time to improve the visual amenity of the Downs. Their choice reflected a series of famous paintings of the Clifton Downs by the coincidentally named James Baker Pyne, who added them to provide greater contrast and scale with the scenery. The original of one of these is in the Merchant Venturer's Hall on the Promenade in Clifton, but can also be seen on one of the 150th anniversary panels by the watertower.

**Richard Bland**

**ribland673@gmail.com**



*A View from Clifton Down - James Baker Pyne (1800-1870)*



# Events

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FOD+AG Annual General Meeting: Wednesday November 15th 7:00pm at Redland Green Bowling Club. All welcome Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and Bar available.

FOD+AG Social: Wednesday 27th September 6pm: It is that time of year - FODAG social at the Downs Cafe. Please see p.6 for full details and how to book, or go the the Events page on the FOD+AG website.

Operation ivy removal Saturday October 7th 10.00 a.m. REGISTER with Richard Bland 0117 9681061



**Committee:**

Jack Penrose (Chair), Martin Collins, Stephanie Wooster, Derek Catterall, Richard Bland, Robert Westlake, Terry Hannan, Robin Haward, Jac Solomons, Bob Bell & Luke Hudson

**Contacts:**

Deep Litter/Butterflies/Goats—Martin Collins.

History/Birds/Trees— Richard Bland.

Projects—Robert Westlake.

Working Parties (e.g. dead hedging)—Robin Haward.

Website—Stephanie Wooster

Articles for the Newsletter: Robin Haward: [robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk)  
& Luke Hudson: [lukeski@hotmail.com](mailto:lukeski@hotmail.com)

**Please Note: Deadline for submissions for the Winter edition is 31st November.**

**Subscriptions:**—£10.00 per household per calendar year. Please ask for a standing order.

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**Website:**

<http://fodag-bristol.weebly.com/>

The website has further information on events and a weekly blog on the Downs.

[@fodagbristol](https://www.facebook.com/fodagbristol)

**Do please join the group on Facebook, and like the page to spread the word.**

**Communication:** if you have an email address but have not told us....please do!



