

# FOD <sup>Avon Gorge +</sup> AG

**Friends of the Downs**

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**Issue 32**

**Spring 2019**



# **Chairman's Report May 2019**

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A pleasantly mild winter has past and we look forward to a yet another busy summer of tasks, events and activities. Since the last edition of the Newsletter our volunteers have completed repairs to the dead hedges that keep joggers away from important Downs plants. The Haven has had a spring clean and the Victorian steps have received some essential maintenance. Ongoing deep litter clearance exercises have been undertaken and work to control regrowth at the Iron Age Fort completed for this year. Volunteers will shortly be treating the cabman's shelter at the White Tree roundabout.

Much is planned for the coming months. In addition to numerous walks and talks we are planning a festival of photography hopefully to be displayed electronically in the windows of the AXA Healthcare building at the top of Redland Hill. This is open to all so please submit your Downs related images via our FOD+AG website. The display will run 24/7 for around three weeks.

A project at the Granny Downs (the area by Claypit Road) to create a brand-new Tree Trail was launched in April. Our late committee member Richard Bland was instrumental in bringing the project to fruition and the trail is dedicated to his memory. The project was overseen by the Downs and Avon Gorge Education Officer Mandy Leivers and officially launched by the Lord Mayor in April.

The uncertainty over the future of many public toilets across the city has been a concern since the elected mayor announced the closure of many such facilities including the Downs. The Downs committee have committed to keeping the Downs loos open, this will include the new toilets which will be part of the Seawalls café development. The Stoke Road unit vandalised at the end of last year has been refurbished and reopened and the cast iron urinal at the top of Whiteladies Road has had a gate fitted and can now be secured at night.

As part of the ongoing analysis of all our activities we have identified that our membership numbers have remained largely static. Your committee believes that to prosper and progress we need to significantly increase our membership. There is much to do and if we as an organisation are to continue as an effective body, able to represent users of the Downs then we need more help. This is something you can assist with. Can you sign up a friend or

## Chairman's Report May 2019

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neighbour, or do so yourself as an original gift for someone dear? It's cheap, easy to do and you will be helping us to continue protecting and preserving the Downs and Avon Gorge.

Your FOD+AG committee is pleased to welcome Tim Clarke as a co-opted member of our committee. Tim comes with a wealth of experience and will prove a great asset.

**Robert Westlake**



*The Lord Mayor and Richard's family at the opening of the Tree Trail.*

## **Richard Bland: Ash Trees of the Downs**

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A year ago there was a national panic about Ash Die Back Disease, since when, silence. That does not mean the threat has gone away; the disease has been detected near Minehead, but it has also become clear that it is not an instant killer, and possible that it is not as virulent as feared.

There are a large number of ash trees on the Downs, and almost every one of them is self-sown. In most years they produce millions of seeds, and few birds or animals seem to eat them. They germinate in millions every year, but they only grow fast if they have plenty of light. They dominate the slopes of the Gorge, have grown up all round the Clifton Camp, and form a small wood near Sea Walls. As a species they are present in every part of the Downs except the soccer pitches, and are more widespread than almost any other species except Hawthorn, Ivy and White Clover, and if all these were to die the Downs landscape would look very different.

There are about a dozen that are more than 150 years old and were wild trees when the Downs Act was passed. Three of them are now stumps, trees that have had to be cut right back for safety but are still alive, in the Westbury Park area. One, near Ladies Mile, has had to be surrounded with warning tape because it is very rotten, but has been used for some years by Green Woodpeckers. The oldest is probably one of the trees in the ash wood near Ivywell Road, with a huge trunk which splits into two at about eight feet, this has been pollarded in recent years, but is still a fine tree. It is over four metres in circumference. There are several others nearby which could not be measured- one of which was used two years ago by three pairs of Rooks. Another fine tree stands on its own, near Ladies Mile and has a marked lean to the north. It is much the biggest tree in the area, and is also almost four metres around.

These trees are all Common Ashes, but there is also a Manna's Ash near the Ranger's pound, which is often called the Flowering Ash as it has huge clumps of white flowers in the spring, and there is a very young Slender-leaf Ash near Ladies Mile which, in a good autumn turns a magnificent purple colour. Common Ashes often turn a fine yellow in Autumn, but not this year when they all dropped their leaves when they were still green.

**Richard Bland - Downs Recorder 2013**

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## Granny Downs - Winter into Spring

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Following the late, great Richard Bland's wonderings about the **Avenue to Nowhere** (see Jeff Bishop's article in the FOD magazine: autumn 2018) – I'd like to put forward my viewpoint. The *Avenue to Nowhere* is the Avenue through wildlife heaven.

It's the small section of the Downs in front of St Christopher's, leading to the White Tree. It's called the Granny Downs because it was beloved of Gran-nies from the large houses in Westbury Park, being not far to walk. I come into that category now. But in all my decades roving, studying and recording the Bristol Downs, many of my adventures and sightings have occurred in this tiny portion.

To list a few and perhaps return to them in future reports. There's the bald blackbird, the polka dot ladybird, the thumping squirrel, the grey wagtail, the fairy ring of cuckoo flower, my ravens, redwing avenue, nuthatch central, fox playground ... and probably the most intense concentration of silver birches on the Downs which turn this haven into golden Camelot in the autumn. There's also the strange business of the synchronised snails and alas, I fear only Richard Bland could have solved that. He once took me to the Beech Avenue to show me snails trailing up (or down) the bark of a sycamore. We could not decide why but Richard had theories ...

I'll start then, by recording snippets of winter this year (2019) what's going on now, as we journey from winter into spring.

**January** and robins are musical, aided by nuthatches and song thrushes from dreams in the early morning. It's said that the territory of song thrushes is as far as their song carries. This month, I heard a pair calling from different territories, echoing the phrases of each other almost simultaneously.

Bluetits chase each other and sometimes doing that pretend feeding, wings fluttering. And is there any prettier sight on the earth than a bluetit among the catkins?

End of January on one of the St Christopher fences, the first time I have ever seen the robin courtship dance – they elongate their bodies in slow motion. Astonishing!!

## **Granny Downs - Winter into Spring**

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**February** and the snow and why on earth are these two crows taking turns to upend themselves in it. They upend completely, return to normal and shake themselves. Bathing? Having fun?

**March** and celandine heaven, of course, a few primroses, dog violets, plus a patch of purple sweet violets that have taken root here recently. And sweet white violets, too! When I first toured the Downs regularly (1966) there were more white violets than purple. Then for a while the white disappeared, but they are back in force now! There are a few red violets in Fairyland, cerise: and of course, a whole hillside of them at Ashton Court.

**April** and the whole spring fizzing party begins and as we are having a Granny Downs tree focus, good to look out for all the seed leaves of the lime trees – the leaves push through the earth like tiny bright green hands.

If you would like any further details of the wildlife mentioned here, please e-mail me: [Geraldine@geraldinetaylor.co.uk](mailto:Geraldine@geraldinetaylor.co.uk) . Please also contact me if you hear or see chaffinches, bullfinches or greenfinches on the Granny Downs as they are not well represented and I would be very interested.

**Geraldine Taylor**

## **Meet your New Committee Member**

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The first thing members should know is that following the sad and untimely death of Richard Bland, there was a vacancy on the FOD+AG Committee, and in accordance within our constitution, committee members were charged with co-opting a candidate willing to fill that vacancy. We are delighted to say that the person who was nominated and who agreed to join us is Tim Clarke.

What follows, in his own words and in response to a series of questions I posed, is an introduction to your new Committee Member.

### **Has your career always involved the environment and conservation in one form or another?**

Environment - yes, conservation – no, as I was a Local Authority environmental health officer by profession.

### **What did you do before that?**

I moved to Bristol from London in 1991 and was a member of the City Council's team dealing with noise, air and land pollution. In the latter years I managed that Team until retirement in 2011.

### **How and when were you drawn to the conservation of the living world?**

I've always been interested in the natural world, especially birds, and enjoy being outdoors, walking, etc. experiencing nature. Following my retirement I have been regularly volunteering for Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) as a member of its Wildlife Action Group doing whatever conservation management tasks are required on its 36 or so reserves around the former Avon county area.

I know that you are now Warden of Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock, the new AWT Reserve in the Avon Gorge. Where exactly is it and how do visitors get to it?

Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock is on the north-eastern side of The Portway, a short distance south of Sea Mills station. It is situated on the former Bristol and West Building Society's sports ground, and is separated from the City Council's Old Sneed Park Local Nature Reserve, and the Woodland Trust's Bishops Knoll reserve by the Severn Beach railway line. Access is via a footpath leading down from Bramble Lane, or via pedestrian gates from The Portway at either end of the reserve.

## **Meet your New Committee Member**

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**How long has it been established and can you give us a pen-picture of the reserve?**

The reserve was opened in 2015 as AWT's key contribution to Bristol's year being the European Green Capital. Due to my involvement with AWT I was keen to be involved in that project and I was very happy that the Trust accepted my offer to be the Warden.

It is predominantly grassland, now fringed by 4200 small trees, mainly hedgerow species, which were planted as whips in early 2015 by the Trust and many volunteers. There is also a wildflower meadow, three small ponds and small established mixed woodlands at either end of the reserve.

**What are your particular interests in the natural world?**

As I said I've always been interested in birds but volunteering with AWT has widened my interests and I've now got a much broader appreciation of flora and fauna generally. I also undertake butterfly monitoring on my reserve and report the records to the UK's national monitoring scheme.

**How long have you been associated with the Downs and in what guise?**

I've been a member of FOD+AG for some years and enjoy the practical activities such as the deep litter clearing sessions, scrub control, dead-hedging and along with my wife, Heather, got involved with Richard Bland's Adopt a Thorn project a while back. We were also big fans of Richard's varied and enlightening educational walks; and his extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for the Downs will be sorely missed. We have also acted as stewards for the Cycle Sunday events on the Downs and have been enthusiastic spectators at the Tour of Britain.

**As a new FOD+AG Committee member are there activities you would like to see us involved in beyond what we already do?**

Derek Catterall, another FOD+AG committee member, and I were at the last AGM of AWT and were both appalled to hear another attendee describe the Downs as a big lawn, without any appreciation of the valuable natural habitats it incorporates! Perhaps we could be doing more to educate the public about this aspect of the Downs. The better the understanding and apprecia-



## **Meet your New Committee Member**

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tion of how important the Downs are, the greater the level of protection there should be for this amazing asset for the people of Bristol. I think we could do more work on widening access to different groups while also informing them of the nature around them. These groups could include cyclists, communities from other areas of Bristol, young people socializing (encouraging BBQs in suitable areas), disabled and children's groups etc..

Thank you, Tim and welcome!

**Martin Collins**

## **News: Sea Walls Café Update**

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The Downs Committee has now approved the proposal for the Sea Walls Café, after some minor changes including relocation and the removal of the upper terrace. However DEFRA approval is still outstanding as it is on common land - the decision is due in September, with work to commence next winter. Downs Committee are seeking suitable contractors.

Some FOD+AG members have expressed their disappointment that the Committee, did not appear to have read the proposals properly, or considered their objections, notably on the visual impact. FOD+AG supports the proposal but has expressed reservations about the impact of the design.

## **Downs Leisure Loop: Consultation**

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It'd like to invite comments from our members on the above project that was published in the Winter edition of our FOD+AG magazine.

The draft proposal for a leisure loop on the Downs has been proposed by Vicky Cracknell and Jonny wood who are the organisers of the annual Cycling Sunday event which takes place on the Downs. Their plans were submitted to the Downs Committee at a meeting in February 2019 and they are now considering it.

It would be a pretty major change to the Downs, (if it happens), and it would be interesting and also I think useful to get the views of our members on this proposal.

Personally I support the plans with a few reservations....one being that I'm worried that cars will increase their speed in the event that circular road becomes one way and so I think that it's essential that there are some sort of traffic calming measures put in place.

Having said that any plans that would restrict traffic generally on the Downs I would certainly be in favour of. Other comments that I have heard about the proposals are ....

- How can cyclists and pedestrians share a path safely ?
- Should a gravel surface encroach on any Downs grassland ?
- Would it benefit families and young children learning to cycle ?
- Would it provide better wheelchair access ?
- Should we restrict all cars on Circular Road ?
- Should we have a zebra crossing /pedestrian island by Cafe Retreat

Please email Robin at [robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk) and Luke at [Lukski@hotmail.com](mailto:Lukski@hotmail.com). and let us know what you think about the plans f

If you have any thoughts on this, or any other issues concerning the Downs. and Avon Gorge please email us and we will publish them in the letter page in the magazine.

**Derek Catterall**

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## That Art Work ...

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On March 23<sup>rd</sup> Martin Collins had a team of 22 volunteers picking litter. This was the regular Deep Litter Clearance and it was the last of the season because of birds nesting. (And thanks for the coffee, Martin) This time the team was asked to separate displayable litter for a display on the Downs which would encourage one and all to keep the Downs free of litter. The target area was quite small: the Downs from St Monica's up to the Parry's Lane extension. All of the displayable litter has been incorporated into the display which is to be found just to the left of the path leading on to the Downs from Blackboy Hill. At the time of writing the display has been up for a week and two days. It is checked daily to make sure that it has not been wind-damaged.

Many thanks to Martin's litter pickers and to the Downs Committee and the Downs team, and also to Travis Perkins for donating the ply board.

**Robin Haward**

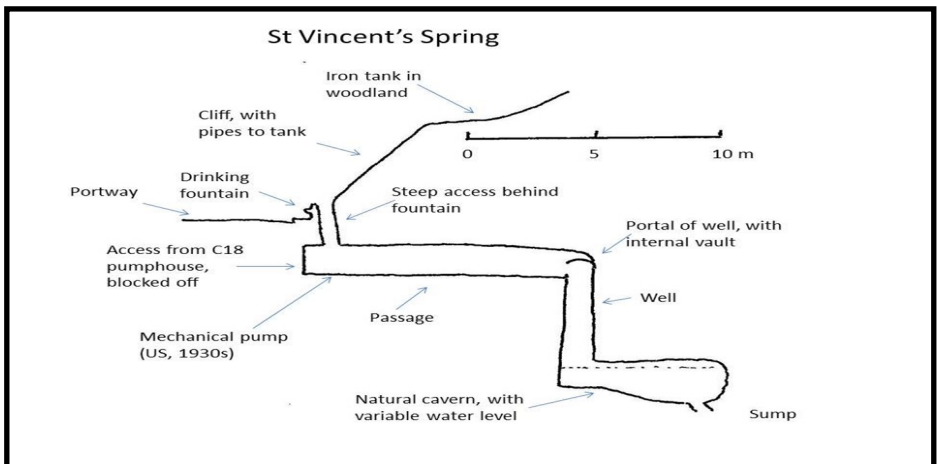


## St Vincent Spring (Part 2)

St Vincent's Spring is located in the Avon Gorge between the Great Quarry and the Gully, and is unusual in being mildly thermal (20°C). At first sight it is unmemorable - a disused drinking fountain beside Portway, some rusty pipes and an old iron tank. However, there is also a hidden US pump from the late 1930s. My article in the Spring 2019 Newsletter has photographs and links these artefacts to Emergency Drinking Water Supplies in WW2. The spring has a far longer history, which goes back to the small spa of New Hotwell(s), founded in 1730. I have discussed the C18 history in an earlier Newsletter (Summer 2016) and led walks to show what can still be seen.

While researching on the Spring I came across references in caving journals which were not easily available online. I asked the University of Bristol Speleological Society for assistance; they had these articles in their library. Soon afterwards I had an invitation to be escorted into the cave. Here I shall describe what I saw. I did not descend into the well, but watched as a caver in a wetsuit unrolled a light-weight ladder - and climbed down.

The layout is shown schematically in Fig. 1, which is redrawn from a City Engineer's survey of 1950 (Bristol Archives). A steep access, evidently dating from when Portway was built in the 1920s, leads to an underground passage running into the hill, about 10 m in length. The well at its end is 7 m deep. The spring is at its foot, in a small natural limestone cavern, about 5 m long.



## St Vincent Spring (Part 2)



The passage is a roughly hewn and not photogenic, so I shall move on to photographs of the well. Two of these photographs were taken by two Bristol artists in about 2006 (Heath Bunting, Kayle Brandon); their website ([duo. irrational.org/tunneling](http://duo. irrational.org/tunneling)) has images of many local caves, but without any commentary. As viewed from the passage, the well has a stone portal (Fig. 2).

Fig. 3 is taken inside the well, looking up; the well is lined with rubblestone masonry, which converges in a small 'beehive' vault. At the foot of the well, a masonry arch spans the cavern, and supports the lining on this side (Fig. 4). The well is obviously old. The spa was never a financial success, so we may presume that the well dates from its founding in 1730, rather than being a later reconstruction. It is hard for us to imagine all this being built without electric light.





## St Vincent Spring (Part 2)

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The buildings of New Hotwell were demolished in 1864 but are clearly shown in paintings and drawings, of which one by S.H. Grimm (1788) is particularly clear (see Fig. 5), and also in early photographs. One can deduce that the C18 buildings were about 3 m lower than Portway, which makes them similar in level to the passage. The passage is quite spacious: about 2 m wide, at least 2 m high. The portal and vault of the well seem more elaborate than is necessary. In the C18 people were only too well aware that water from a pump is often unsavoury. I think patrons were encouraged to walk along the passage to the head of the well, where candles would be the main illumination. They would be impressed – this is a special spring:

‘... close to the back of [my House] is a Spring of Water of a Medicinal Quality.’ (John Dolman, *Contemplations amongst Vincent’s Rocks*, 1755)

The author of these words held the lease at this time.

The wellhead projects into the cavity of the passage. It is not central but set to the left, with the portal at an angle as one approaches. Perhaps this is intentional? There was a contemporary fashion for grottoes; a grotto is packed with attractions, but similar in being a cave with visual impact.

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The layout and hydrology pose many questions. How was the cavern discovered? Why is the well at the end of a passage? What controls the water level, which is very variable? The water in the cavern shows little movement – where is the main spring? As things stand, the site is remarkably lacking in study by specialists. The main studies of the cave have been by two school caving clubs, since adult cavers seem to have dismissed it as too dull (small, largely man-made). A school group has reported a sump (i.e. downward opening) in the cavern, but this has not been explored. The authors of a geological account of hot springs in the Avon Gorge (A.B. Hawkins & G.A. Kellaway, 1991) were unaware of the existence of the cave. I have made contact with two hydrologists in British Geological Survey, who plan to start a programme of measurements later in the spring. Their long-term hope is that the warm springs of the Avon Gorge have sufficient heat flow to be exploitable as geothermal energy. The Hotwell and Sion Springs are warmer (both 24°C) and appear to have a higher flow, but St Vincent's Spring adds to the picture. When more is known, I shall give you an update.



## **New Tree Trail**

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Trees were among Richard Bland's many passions in nature, and so it was a fitting tribute that a guided tree trail around the Granny Downs was opened in his memory by the Lord Mayor on Friday 12th May

XXX Luke Hudson to continue.

**Luke Hudson**



## Naked Climbers in the Gorge

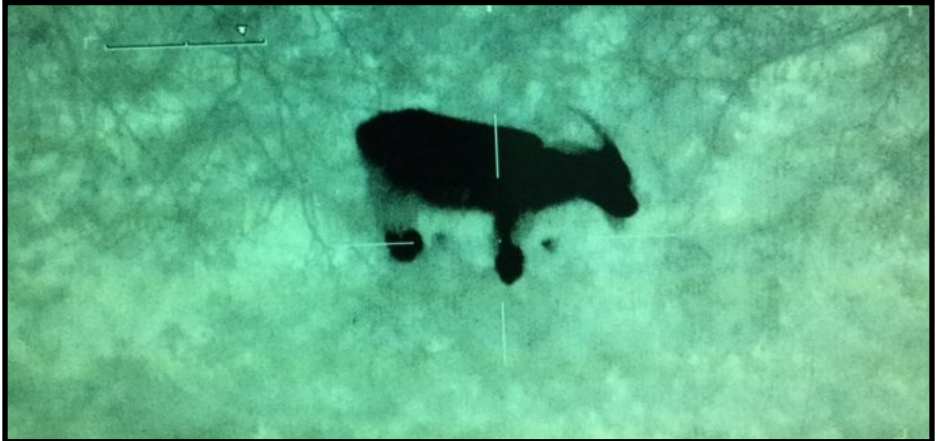
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Last November as temperatures dipped to near freezing six naked climbers were spotted clambering the cliff face in the Avon Gorge. A spokesperson for Avon Fire and Rescue reported seeing a group of six naked people posing on the cliff face while another individual equipped with camera and tripod stood by.

The identity of the group remained unknown as did their motive for this apparent stunt. It is not known how long they remained naked in the Gorge but given temperatures that evening dropping to minus three Celsius it is assumed not very long.

The Avon Gorge is no stranger to this type of escapade with emergency services often called out to deal with incidents of potential irresponsible behaviour and ill equipped climbers.

In January 2016 rescue teams including the police helicopter conducted a full-scale search of the Gorge after receiving reports of a person in some distress. The helicopter equipped with thermal imaging camera quickly revealed the 'distressed person' to be one of our Kashmiri goats.



The identity of the naked climbers was finally revealed as members of Bristol Universities Mountaineering Society. The intrepid climbers were in fact taking part in an annual photoshoot for a naked calendar raising vital funds for charitable organisations.

**Robert Westlake**

# **Gully Site Visit for Yew Tree Trail**

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I outlined the rough proposal which we were developing and gave each of them a copy of the 2 basic documents. The following were their responses:

## **Mandy Leivers - Avon Downs and Gorge Wildlife Project**

- She likes the idea of some wood carving, but not in the Yew Wood as it would represent an unnecessary intrusion into goat territory.
- She does not consider there is any risk of soil erosion in that area.
- She thought it most unlikely that she would ever use a sculpture trail from Gate 6 (FOD+AG Monitoring Map) because of the anti-social behaviour threat to children represented by the narrow strip of secondary woodland across which access would be gained. Access from the Victorian Steps would be even more intrusive upon goat territory.

## **Ben Skuse - Downs Supervisor**

- He too sees no threat of soil erosion in that site even when the canopy opens up.
- He didn't see any need for an educational sculpture trail.
- He was perfectly happy to countenance a landscape made up predominantly of dead trees as it reflected the natural processes of the conservation strategy of which this is a part. There is no need for the area to look attractive to visitors.
- It is a refuge for the goats in which they seem to spend a good proportion of their time
- There are areas within the Wood where entry of light from reduction in the canopy is already developing a herb layer community.
- There is no place for pathways through what will eventually become meadow habitat so a trail would be unwanted. Their parting gesture was the suggestion that we should get in touch with Chris Westcott, at Natural England.

In the following proposal are my revised options for how we might proceed incorporating the comments above.

**Martin Collins**

# **New Proposal for Yew Wood Sculpture Trail**

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After Meeting with Ben Skuse (Site Manager for NW Bristol) and Mandy Leivers (Education Officer for AGDWP) - both of whom, although not averse to the introduction of a Tree/Wood Sculpture into the Gully, had reservations about the siting of a trail in the Yew Wood – an adapted proposal was developed. This follows as a series of ideas which might be incorporated:

- Entry to and exit from the goat enclosure via Gate 6 (see FOD+AG goat monitoring map) to a mostly grassed area with few remaining living trees except on the southern and western edges where the land falls away steeply towards the bottom of the Gully. (See picture 1)



*P 1: Grassed Area – entry gate top right & yew wood beyond grass*

- This area slopes towards the SW, although not too steeply, and could provide a comfortable teaching space using already felled timber for seating supplemented by further trunks cut to make them safe or to protect the goat fencing in some places.
- A view down to the river could be opened up by removing 3 dead trees which happen to be precisely located to afford this view and the location could be further enhanced by the siting of a carved/sculpted wooden bench, perhaps illustrating the life cycle of a butterfly. (See picture 2)

## New Proposal for Yew Wood Sculpture Trail



*P2* :site of carved bench central & view of Avon beyond to be further opened up by removal or reducing to stump dead yew trees to either side.

- This already open grassy area contains a number (7 or 8) of dead trees suitable for sculpting and developing into a short wildlife sculpture trail which does not encroach on the Yew Wood considered to be an important refuge for the remaining 3 goats. (See picture 3)
- It would also mean that the “tidying” of the refuge area, which Ben considers unimportant and indeed contrary to the natural embodiment of habitat transformation which the browsing by the goats was intended to accomplish, would not be necessary and most, if not all of the dead trees within the site would remain as skeletons.
- There could be some scope to ecologically improve the diversity of the herb/field layer by selective seeding the area, but it is not clear a) how natural the development of a meadow community is to be achieved nor b) whether the influence of the predominantly yew leaf litter on, for example soil pH, is compatible with the reinstatement of a calcareous/limestone meadow community to the site.
- What is not addressed by this new proposal is the objection held by Mandy Leivers to bringing children to the Gully/goat enclosure via G6 through



# **New Proposal for Yew Wood Sculpture Trail**

the woodland strip which separates it from Circular Road. This is, at heart, a social issue and involves the use of the area concerned for sexual liaisons –a situation which has never been challenged beyond some scrub clearance in then time of the last Downs Ranger, Robert Westlake, on whose retirement the post was abolished. Personally I do not see why this initiative should not be continued, if only in the small area needed for access. To be blunt, it is a question as to which takes precedence – the “rights” of an adult group to indulge in outdoor sexual activity, whether hetero- or homo-sexual, in an area very close to a public highway - or the “opportunity\* for a child-based group to safely access a valuable educational site or merely to play outdoor games? I know where my sympathies lie despite there being some who would accuse me of discrimination.

- The net result of the modified proposal would therefore be a small outdoor classroom with opportunities for the study of meadow plants, invertebrate animals and log-pile microhabitats and, simultaneously, to observe, examine and appreciate animal sculptures illustrating local wildlife species and the beauty of wood as a material for creative art work.

**Martin Collins**



*P3: View to illustrate some of the trees which might be sculpted to  
Form a part of the native wildlife trail.*

# Noticeboard

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## EVENTS :

**Conservation Sundays:** Second Sunday in the month XXX Robin Haward to confirm

Robin Haward [robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Deep Litter Clearance:** January 24th 10.00 - noon.

Martin Collins - [martinandglen@hotmail.com](mailto:martinandglen@hotmail.com)

**AGM:** The 2019 AGM will be held at Redland Green Bowls club on Wednesday 21st November at 7.00 pm.

**Butterfly Monitoring and Goat Monitoring:** If you would like to get involved please email: [martinandglen@hotmail.com](mailto:martinandglen@hotmail.com).

**Dead Hedging and Alexanders Attack:** Working parties to help maintain the hedges and remove invasive weeds.

Robin Haward 01179 743385 or [robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk)

## COMMITTEE :

Robert Westlake (Chair), Martin Collins, Karen Findlay, Derek Catterall, Terry Hannan, Joan Gubbin, Robin Haward, Bob Bell, Caroline Baker & Luke Hudson.

## KEY CONTACTS:-

Membership: Joan Gubbins

Articles for the Newsletter: Robin Haward / Luke Hudson

**Please Note: Deadline for submissions for the Winter edition is 20th January 2019. Articles to** [robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:robinhaward@blueyonder.co.uk) or [fodagcontent@gmail.com](mailto:fodagcontent@gmail.com))

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[mail@gubbin.co.uk](mailto:mail@gubbin.co.uk) OR by post: 3 Wallcroft, Durdham Park, BS6 6XJ, 01179739799.

## SOCIAL MEDIA:

**Website:** <http://fodag-bristol.weebly.com> The website has further information on events and a weekly blog on the Downs.

**Facebook:** Do please join the group on Facebook, and like/share the page to spread the word. [@FODAGbristol](https://www.facebook.com/FODAGbristol).

**Instagram:** [Friends\\_of\\_the\\_Downs](https://www.instagram.com/Friends_of_the_Downs).

Do please send any Downs & Gorge photos to [fodagbs@gmail.com](mailto:fodagbs@gmail.com).



*Ramalina Fastigiata* on Common Hawthorn (Sheila Quin)