

Friends of Stockwood Open Spaces

fosos.org.uk

News from the Open Spaces

April 2014

There's blossom everywhere, cowslips and bluebells are following the primroses and violets, the birds are making their nesting plans, and the ground's become walkable again. Well, mostly!



Viola alba, Open Space orchard, spreading since our big clearance a couple of years ago

Perhaps you haven't heard from the 'Friends' for a while, but there's been plenty that we've been involved in around the open green spaces of Stockwood.

This newsletter should give a taste of what there is, and what might specially interest you.

Planned Events

(*to be confirmed)

Every Monday: A 'Walking for Health' led walk from the South Bristol Sports ('Imperial') Club to Whitchurch and back via the 'railway' path. Meet 10am. Organised by [Linkage](#) for the over 55s

May 8th*: The reserve in bloom: a guided walk round Stockwood Open Space LNR. From the Stockwood Rd entrance at 2pm. (FoSOS)

May/June: Saltwell (Viaduct) Open Space: A 'Festival of Nature' event themed on wildlife monitoring. Co-ordinated by [Bristol Natural History Consortium](#).

June 29, 12 till 4*: A 'Festival of Nature' family fun event in Stockwood Open Space led by the



well-known Bristol naturalist, historian and 'Post' columnist [Steve England](#) (above). Co-ordinated by [Bristol Natural History Consortium](#).

August 13*, 7pm: A fruitful evening walk around Stockwood's open spaces (FoSOS)

October*: Apples from the open space orchard: gathering, pressing and juicing (FoSOS)

Working Parties:

Ring Dave on 01275 839109 for latest, or check the web pages



A cutback that's welcome! Clearing overgrowth by the Open Space cyclepath recently. Inset – the inspector of works!

Usually working parties are on the first Saturday morning of the month. Might be anything - pond clearance, pruning, bramble-bashing, litter picking

Saturday June 14, 10am. Meet by the new footbridge, Saltwell OS, 10am to pull himalayan balsam before it spreads. Maybe a bit of dam clearance too. Wellies recommended! (FoSOS)

This newsheet is available on our website:

www.fosos.org.uk

What's New on the Open Spaces

Thanks to the Friends' pressure and advice

The cash left over from the BMX track near Burnbush School has been put to good use....



Seats have - at last - been installed on the steep path up from Showering Road



A new bridge links Wells Road to the railway path and Cowling Drive across the Saltwell valley



Restored interpretation boards – and new ones to come at the Open Space Nature Reserve entries.

A new roadway has been laid at the main Stockwood Rd entrance to the Open Space, so essential vehicles can get in without churning up the access.



After a threat that a blocked culvert taking Brislington Brook beneath the old railway embankment could lead to flooding.....



it's now been cleared by FoSOS volunteers. Long distance Poohsticks, anyone?

Planning update

The bid by Robert Hitchins Ltd to build 200-300 houses in the green belt fields between Stockwood and Whitchurch village has been rejected. After BaNES had turned them down twice, the developers tried their luck with an appeal to the Secretary of State. It didn't work!

Are YOU a Friend of Stockwood Open Spaces?

Membership is open to all, and the more the better, because whether it's practical help or skills, or simply adding to the numbers, it all helps deliver our aims:

to promote the maintenance, protection, and enhancement of the informal public open spaces of Stockwood for the mutual benefit of both wildlife and people.

We ask for a subscription of £2 a head per year. If you've already paid () no need to do anything. If you'd like to join, please let us have your name and address, a contact phone number and, if poss, an email address (a great help, though we promise not to bombard you with emails!) and a couple of pounds.

Please Note – without the subs we'll have to assume you're not interested

You can send it to:

Margaret Short (Chair) 10 Townsend Close (off Stockwood Lane)

Kerry Vosper (Treasurer) 10 Sturminster Close, or
Pete Goodwin (Sec) 11 Lanesborough Rise