

Name of Group: Friends of Brislington Brook

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Brislington Brook flows from the northern slopes of Dundry to meet the River Avon at St. Anne's Park, where the St. Anne's Board Mills stood, and before that the grand Chapel of St. Anne in the Wood.

There are two main tributaries of the brook on Dundry: the west tributary flows through Whitchurch, Hengrove Park, alongside Airport Road, and Callington Road; the east tributary flows through Whitchurch, under Saltwell Viaduct, alongside Sturminster Road, Stockwood, and under West Town Lane. The two tributaries meet near Water Lane and Tesco Callington Road.

The Brook then continues through Brislington Village, under the A4, before entering the wooded hidden gems of Nightingale Valley and Saint Anne's Wood, which are separated by Brunel's railway line. SAW and NV are situated in south east Bristol between St. Annes and Brislington, and can be accessed from several newly erected entrances across its entirety. These green spaces consist of grassland and a steep sided wooded valley with Brislington Brook running through the valley floor into the river Avon. It cannot be accessed by road so remains a beautiful secluded natural area, appreciated by local walkers of all ages.

The woods are populated by badgers, foxes, deer and squirrels, with possibly a visiting otter. There are several species of birds, such as kingfisher, great tit, chiff-chaff, jay, grey wagtail and heron.

Saint Anne's Holy Well is situated within the wood, said to be a site of pilgrimage in medieval times, and at one time the 3rd most important pilgrimage site in the country – King Henry VII is among those known to have visited the site on pilgrimage.

Friends of Brislington Brook was set up from the highly successful, Discover Brislington Brook Project. Its members provide working party workdays and ecological events to protect and enhance the area.

Among our activities are general litter-picks, invasive weed pulls (Himalayan Balsam), and work to keep the Holy Well looking well loved. We also carry out a monthly Otter Survey; spraint and tracks have been found, along with droppings of other small mammals.

We have a core Steering Group of between 10-15 members, with several more occasional helpers and members on our mailing list.

Our focus in the summer is the Saint Anne's Day Pageant (on the closest Saturday to 27 th July, St. Anne's Day), bringing together the local community, schools and many other interested groups to re enact the pilgrimages and bring music and drama to a specially creative natural stage within the wood.

Recent work to the paths and entrances have greatly enhanced the woods and made it more suitable for walkers and cyclists throughout the year.

For those travelling by car the main access point to SAW is at the junction of St. Anne's Road and Wootton Road, with a free car park at Co-op, St. Anne's Park, and for NV at Hill Lawn off Allison Road, where there is street parking.