



Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge

November 2021

FOD+AG welcomes the opportunity to update the Downs committee on our most recent activities and some of the events planned for the coming months.

FOD+AG remains committed to its core values to represent legitimate users of the Downs and to support the City Council and the Downs committee in the good governance of the Downs and Avon Gorge.

The Friends group wishes to thank the Downs committee for the opportunity to contribute to last months Strategic Review. We are encouraged by this initiative and remain optimistic that the opinions expressed by the various attendees will lead us to a positive outcome. We look forward to the next stage of the process.

Due to the persistence of Covid 19 infections we have regretfully decided to postpone our planned AGM. This is to reduce the risk to our members as we come up to what may be a difficult winter. To ensure we can continue to function as an organisation for the coming year the official business of FODAG will be conducted electronically. We hope to reconvene with members early in the new year.

We continue striving to increase our membership and reach out to a wider audience. In addition to our well-established quarterly Newsletter, we now offer a monthly news bulletin, we have a popular website, we are on Facebook, Instagram and on Twitter. The Downs app. commissioned by the Friends group provides a wealth of information about all aspects of the Downs and Gorge.

Our volunteers have been out and about across the Downs on regular deep litter forays. Most recently the area cleansed of deep-seated litter and rubbish was the woodland from the top of Bridge Valley Road back towards the Observatory. Further expeditions are planned for the winter.

In the coming months we plan to carry out works to the Victorian steps, the Haven and seasonal work to the planting scheme at the Thomas memorial. We

have also agreed works with the Downs supervisor to repair the 'dead hedges' along Circular Road.