

## **Summary of activities of the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project education and community engagement programme**

**Officer Presenting Report: Mandy Leivers, Avon Gorge and Downs Biodiversity Education Manager**

### **Avon Gorge and Downs Learning and Engagement Officer**

Interviews for the Avon Gorge and Downs Learning and Engagement Officer took place at the beginning of February; Vanessa Adnitt was appointed and is due to start on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. Vanessa returns to this role for the second year running.

### **Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project events programme**

The spring 2022 events programme is very popular with six of the events fully booked. During March, we have three events:

- Meet the Avon Gorge goat keeper walk
- A year in the life of birdsong talk
- Learning birdsong on the Downs course

### **Schools education sessions**

We've been busy handling school education session bookings for the spring and summer terms.

### **Your Downs activities**

#### Bridge 2 Nature

We re-launched our 'Bridge 2 Nature' project - a nature connection, art and wellbeing project for young people (aged 18 to 25) that we are running in partnership with Off The Record (OTR) and Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG). 12 young people have signed up and our first guided session on the Downs is at the end of March.

#### Walks and talks

At the beginning of March, Ben Skuse and I led a guided walk for older Nordic walkers about the rare plants of the Avon Gorge and our goatherd. I also gave a talk about the wildlife of the Avon Gorge and Downs, and the work of the Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project, to Stapleton Probus Club.

### **Downs Commoners' sheep grazing ceremony**

I have attended a couple of planning meetings for the Downs Commoners' grazing event that will take place in May. We will be delivering education sessions for school groups visiting the event, in conjunction with the shepherdess.

### **Filming projects**

Ben and I were interviewed for a film made by the Bristol University Wildlife Film Society. They are helping us create a new film about the special wildlife of the site and our goats for the project website. It will replace the old, out of date one filmed in 2011.

I have also had a meeting with a documentary filmmaker who is going to create a short film about botanist Libby Houston and the rare flora of the Avon Gorge. We also hope to put this film on our website.