

## Editorial

Interest around the Hogsmill Walk seems to be increasing. The new-born electronic network is showing its first benefits by facilitating communication between Hogsmill Action Group (HAG) members and the Council. If you are not part of this growing electronic network yet, please send us your contact details (including e-mail address) and we will include you.

Now we need your help to take a further step. We would like to duplicate or perhaps triplicate the number of people in our database interested in receiving this newsletter. What can you do? It is very simple, pass this newsletter to two residents that have not previously been involved with the HAG (two extra copies included). If you have received this newsletter for the first time and believe that there is someone else that might be interested, please contact us or download it from our web-site.

## Mosaic for Watersplash Close

You probably have noticed the mosaics that Save the World Club (SWC) have created around Kingston Town. There is an opportunity to have one at Watersplash Close with a map that describes the Hogsmill Valley Walk from start to finish. The map will be approximately 8x4 feet. It will feature local fauna and flora in places where they may be seen around the river edge.

The mosaic will be developed with participation of local schools and general community. An award winning team of community mosaic artist from SWC will facilitate the process. Now, the project needs an enthusiastic group of people to help make it happen (e.g. put together a fund raising proposal). If you are interested in this project and want to help, please contact Carlos Queremel.

## Clean-up day between Watersplash and Villiers Road

Last February, local residents, students of Kingston University (KU) and general members of the HAG, put their gloves on, got their litter pickers bags, grapples and loppers and off they went. Two hours were enough to remove clear unwanted objects such as: four trolleys, two bicycles, two old railings, a microwave, computer monitor a vacuum cleaner and filled 25 bags of general rubbish.

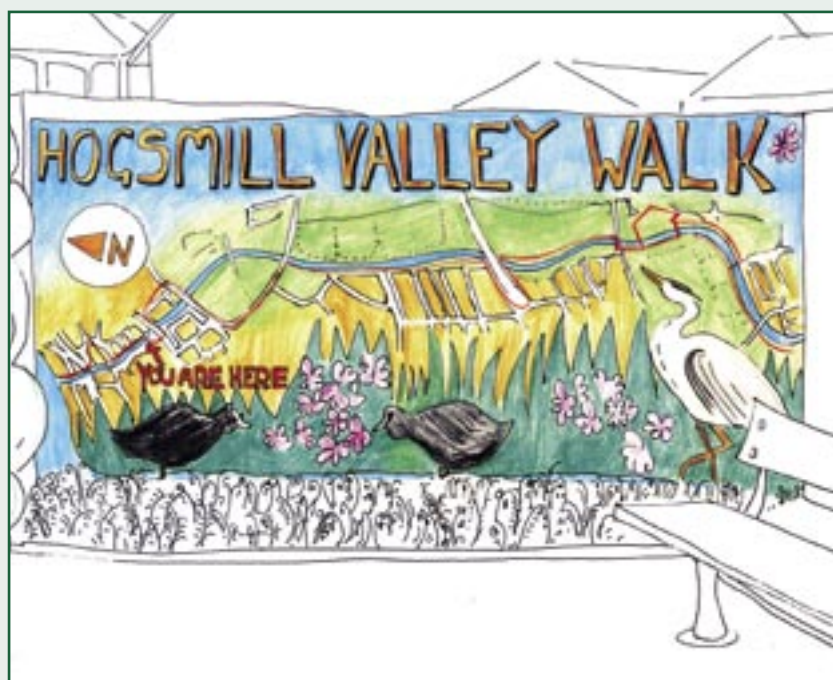
"I am amazed at what I find in the river each clean-up. The normal debris I recover is old tyres, batteries, shopping trolleys; I have even found a central heating boiler." Said Tony Edwards, an active HAG member.



Fabio da Silva a student at KU commented "I was not surprised to see that some people consider river banks as a deposit for litter. I personally removed something that seems to have been a mattress in the past, together with the usual stuff, like plastic and glass bottles, drinking cans and fast food packaging."

At the end of the morning we all gathered around 'Millennium Bridge' for juice and biscuits, which provided a good opportunity for people to relax and have a friendly chat. "There was a huge sense of achievement of filling those rubbish bags" said Mark Horne, General Manager of KU Students' Union.

Thanks to all those involved, we hope that this cleaner face of the river encourages its users to take a bit more care of it.



## What's On

### Sunday 2nd April

Clean up along Elmbridge Road.

We will meet at the junction of Raeburn Avenue with Elmbridge Avenue at 10:30 am. Materials and refreshments will be provided.

## Other events

### Epsom Common Charcoal and Woodland Crafts Day

Sunday 21st May. For further details, contact the Manager of the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project, Nick on 01372 743 783

## And remember!

### The Knowmead Permaculture Reserve

Meets last Sunday of every month. There is room for people to grow fruits and vegetables and have fun. Further information contact Gwen Mark 0208 296 8462

### The Hogsmill River Bridge party is coming in June.

If you will like to get involved in the organization of this popular community party, contact Ruth Dalton  
e-mail: [ruth\\_dalton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruth_dalton@yahoo.co.uk)  
020 8546 8532  
or Gwen Mark 020 8296 8462.



## This season look out for nesting birds

Hedgerows offer good conditions for nesting birds. Birds are attracted to them because of features which echo a woodland edge, or the edge of a glade. The most frequent nesters are: robin, song thrush, blackbird, chaffinch, whitethroat among others.

When walking along the Hogsmill you will probably see song thrushes nesting in the hedgerows. The song thrush is a familiar songbird of gardens and farmland throughout Britain. Its song is highly distinctive as each phrase is repeated up to three times. The clarity of each note is also remarkably pure.

## The Colours of Kingston

### Hogsmill Photography Competition 2006

Do you enjoy taking photographs?

Have you got access to a camera?

Why don't you help us to capture the beauty and diversity of the Hogsmill Walk?

Kingston Council in partnership with Snappy Snaps have organised a photographic competition to raise the profile of the Hogsmill Walk. So, put your boots on, grab your camera and off you go to the Hogsmill Walk to capture your best shot.

There are two levels of entry: adults and children (up to 16 years) and six categories to choose from:

- landscapes
- local Fauna (birds, insects, others)
- local Flora (trees, bushes, flowers, etc)
- community enjoyment
- urban and nature relationship
- miscellaneous

Prizes will be

- an A1 Stretch Canvas print + 3 months free print (6'x4') to the overall winners (2 prizes);
- and 3 months free print (6'x4') to each category winner (12 prizes).

Registration and entry to the competition is free.

For detailed rules of the competition contact Carlos Queremel on 0208 8547 5347, [carlos.queremel@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:carlos.queremel@rbk.kingston.gov.uk) or download the form the following link: [www.kingston.gov.uk/environment/environmental\\_events.htm](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/environment/environmental_events.htm). Please submit entries by 17th May 2006



If you would like to be kept up to date with regular news and information on the Hogsmill, or have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Community Environment Officer on 020 8547 5347, email [environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:environment@rbk.kingston.gov.uk) or write to the address opposite.



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