

Newsletter July 2022

FRIENDS OF
BRIDE'S MOUND



c/o The Old Clinic, 10a St. John's Square, Glastonbury, SOMERSET, BA6 9DP.
Email: friendsofbridesnew@yahoo.co.uk

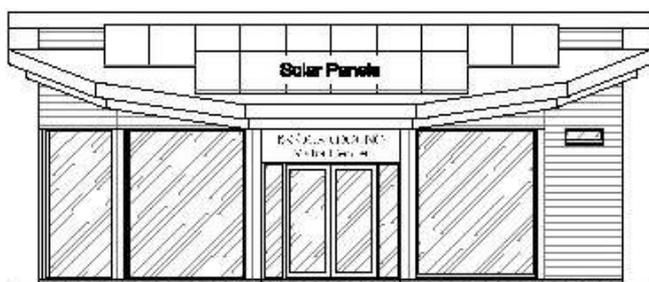
Dear Friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well, we all send warm wishes from Glastonbury, and we hope you enjoy this latest news from Bride's Mound. Please note our new postal address at the head of this newsletter.

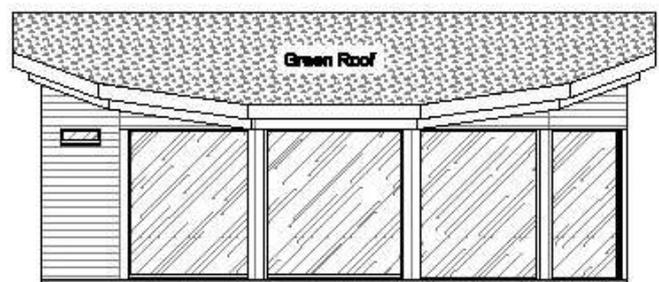
Glastonbury Town Deal Fund Proposal for a Brides Mound Visitor Education Centre

This proposal was first suggested five years ago, and discussion with Jamie Vincent, the property developer who owns part of the former Morland's car park just adjacent to Bride's Mound, was initiated by the Friends of Brides Mound, together with Bob Croft from South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), who manage the Chapel field, and Liz Leyshon, Somerset County Councillor, who have access to the Chapel Field across this section of car park. Since then, one section of the land owned by Jamie Vincent has not been developed and the Friends of Bride's Mound made him an offer which he declined. The suggestion of a Visitor Educational Centre with associated disabled parking and access was taken up by Beckery Village, and was incorporated into their plans for regeneration of the area. Jamie Vincent has now agreed to sell the land to the Friends of Brides Mound as part of our proposal for the Town Deal Fund.

Andrew Gowland, of Reality Building Design, located in the nearby Red Brick Building, did this preliminary design for the visitor educational centre:



SOUTH ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

Since then lots has changed. The Friends Expression of Interest was accepted into the Town Investment Plan (TIP) by Mendip District Council (MDC) and the Town Deal Board, as one of a dozen projects which reached this stage. We were asked if SWHT could join in with us

as they were proposing putting in disabled access and marking out the site of the chapel and the hermit's/priest's hut, together with some tree planting. Then Somerset Wildlife Trust asked if they could join us and turn the Friends' fields, which are located between the chapel field and the river, into a nature reserve. We also agreed to this and, after two rounds of cuts to the budget, put in a joint TIP proposal for £600,000. This was accepted by the government.

Then we had to do a Business Case. This has involved lots of form filling, meeting with MDC, and consultation with Mott Macdonald, who were employed by MDC to complete the government's "Green Book" on behalf of all the projects. In the process the proposed visitor centre has been downgraded to a Meeting and Activity shed, with no café, toilets or shop! There will still be the display inside the building visible from the access route, so that whether or not the building is open, visitors can read all about it. There will also still be the proposed disabled parking for three cars, and a green space with trees for picnics, etc. The building will now be a timber frame building raised up by a metre because of the flood plain. There will be water, a kettle and a sink for cuppas, with the grey water draining into a reed bed in the nearby ditch. The north facing roof will be a sedum/grass mix so that when you look down from Brides Mound, it will be pleasing to the eye. The south side of the roof will have solar panels for lighting, and heating of the building using an air source heat pump, possibly with underfloor heating but this is yet to be decided. The idea is to keep maintenance and costs to a minimum so that it will be easy to run by whoever takes this on. Several people have already shown an interest in using the building. SWHT and SWT would like to use the building for meeting. The Life Factory, which is another Town Deal Fund project and is part of the Red Brick Building, has indicated that they might be interested in at least managing the bookings side of things. And the Eco-farm project, which is another Town Deal project, are also interested in using it and in having access from their land to the Red Brick building down the Friends track.

We should hear from the government in late Autumn whether or not the funds have been approved. Meanwhile we are now putting out tenders for architects, timber framers, etc., so that we are ready should we be successful. Please keep your fingers crossed and light a candle or two to wish us success. With best wishes,

Serena Roney-Dougal

Friendships

If you haven't already done so this year, we warmly invite you to renew your membership of Friends of Bride's Mound now (if you don't already pay your contribution with a standing order).

To renew your membership via Paypal, or to download a membership form to renew by post, please visit our website here: <https://www.friendsofbridesmound.com/friends.html>

If you set up a new standing order can you please e-mail us (friendsofbridesnew@yahoo.co.uk) so that we know your details and can send you newsletters.



Land Management Update

With the help of significant donations we have been able to lower the hedge all along the boundary of the second field and the Mound. This has opened up the view of the Mound and the contour of the “ridge” as a continuation of the Mound, from the vantage point of the information signage on the Brue embankment.



Now that the hedge work is complete, you are able to see Bride's Mound from the sign on the river Brue.

Serena expressed a wish to similarly open up the view from the other end of the embankment as this is the direction that the pilgrimage traditionally takes and so that was also achieved by felling some willows that were already in a sorry state that surrounded the bottom gate. (Work kindly volunteered by another Pete). So you can now see the chapel end of the Mound from the position of the Well Stone and Sweet Track on top of the embankment.

We can decide next Autumn if we wish to take down a bit more of the hedge on the boundary of the Mound and the Ridgefield, just past the gate on top of the ridge, in order to continue the experience of the contour of the ridge.

The Forest Garden project has now become an intent to eventually work with the Wildlife Trust, (Simon Clarke), in order to re wild the land, adding to a wildlife corridor joining Glastonbury, Shapwick Heath and Westhay. As we are very close to paying off our loan for the land we wouldn't have to be dependent on farming income and the timing may fit very well with changes the Government has suggested in Farming Subsidies, with more payments towards wildlife enhancements by 2024.

We continue to have a good relationship with Mr Moon our Grazier. This spring he put sheep on the land so that at least we will only have muck spreading once this year rather than twice. He has also trimmed the Ridgefield hedge.

Miranda Bruce

Imbolc walk to Bride's Mound



Thank you to everyone who joined our annual Imbolc walk to, and simple ceremony on, Bride's Mound this year. This took place on the traditional day, the afternoon of 1st February. It was particularly special to gather this year after the two year break due to the pandemic.

There is an in-depth report, with more photos, and fascinating videos of Serena Roney-Dougal telling the history of this annual event at points along the walk, on our website here:

www.friendsofbridesmound.com/imbolc-pilgrimage-2022-event-report/

The Epic Clean-up of Bride's Mound

If you visited Bride's Mound over the past couple of years you may have seen the enormous amount of rubbish, some of it hazardous, which was left following the eviction of a number of people from the site in September 2021.

A group of people, primarily from the local traveller community and the Friends of Bride's Mound, organised by the wonderful John Golle, worked tirelessly through last winter, weekend after weekend, come rain or shine, to help clean the site up. A small group of local business people paid for a skip to begin to clear the rubbish – special thanks go to Bob Burns, Lui Krieg and Joseph Hunwick.

We'd like to thank everyone involved; it has been such a fantastic effort by the local community.

Thank you to the Stewards!



A photo of the Stewards from a previous year's festival

A huge “thank you” to all the wonderful Stewards who volunteered again this year at the Glastonbury Festival, for which the Friends of Bride’s Mound receives a very welcome donation.