

# Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter – Spring 2006



## Welcome to our first newsletter!

The Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) is a group of local people who want to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the Cut – including its history, geology, wildlife, bridges, bankside buildings and its role in making Bristol work.

We run occasional events, organise clean-up sessions, and are currently working on a new leaflet and book about the Cut. This newsletter brings you news of recent activities, some forthcoming events, and our plans to set up FrANC as an independent charitable organisation.

It is being distributed to everyone who has filled in a form over the last year, and to people living near the Cut. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please let us know (see overleaf).



The ivy broomrape grows on the grassy banks of the Cut, particularly along the Cumberland Road section. It is a fairly rare plant, and features in FrANC's logo.

## Forthcoming events

### Avon New Cut Trek

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Come on a guided walk around the Cut to learn about its history and its links with Brunel, whose 200<sup>th</sup> birthday it is today!

Meet at Vauxhall Bridge at 10am. We aim to finish at or near the Riverside Garden Centre at around 1pm. This is a free event organised in conjunction with the Bristol Living Rivers Project.

### FrANC planning meeting

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May (see overleaf)

### Wild Flower Discovery Walk

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Come and admire the summer flowers along the Cut and help us to identify them. Bring a wild flower book if you have one. We shall look out for the relatively rare ivy broomrape, which flowers on the Cut at this time of year.

Meet at Vauxhall Bridge at 2pm. We aim to finish with a cup of tea at Riverside Garden Centre at around 4pm.

## New publications

A new book on the Cut, written by local people, will be published in April. Around the same time, an illustrated leaflet on Discovering the Wildlife of the New Cut will be launched. Both these publications will help people to understand and enjoy the Cut. They will be available from the Southville Centre (see address overleaf).

## Recent activities

### Spring clean-ups

Many thanks to the 24 volunteers who cleared litter and a range of discarded household goods from the south riverbank one crisp and sunny Saturday morning in January, and a further 14 volunteers who cleared rubbish from under Gaol Ferry Bridge on the north bank in February. We made a considerable improvement in a short time, which just shows what can be achieved when people work together.

### Tree thinning

Using money received via a planning agreement for the new flats at Bedminster Bridge, the City Council has recently been able to carry out some much-needed work on the trees along the south bank. Dead elms have been removed and new trees and shrubs planted in their place. In areas where trees were packed too closely together, some have been removed to give the remaining trees the light and space they need to grow properly.

### Butterfly Junction

A new partnership has recently been set up to manage and preserve the wildlife area around the red brick warehouse adjacent to the CREATE Centre at the Ashton end of the Cut. The area has been named Butterfly Junction as 19 species of butterfly have been sighted there, some of them breeding on the site. Many thanks to the volunteers who cleared brambles and unwanted saplings from the site at the end of February.

#### **Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)**

c/o The Southville Centre, Bealey Road,  
Southville, BS3 1QG.

Tel: 0117 923 1039.

See also the Southville Centre website at  
[www.southvillecentre.org.uk](http://www.southvillecentre.org.uk)



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## We want to hear your views!

We want to hear what people with an interest in the Cut would like FrANC to be doing. We want to know your ideas for future events and activities and your suggestions for improving the Cut.

We are also developing plans to formalise FrANC, by establishing a constitution and electing a management committee. This will increase FrANC's recognition within Bristol and will open up funding opportunities for events and activities that promote and improve the Cut.

You are invited to a meeting to be held in the Southville Centre at 7.30pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May when we will:

- Review recent activities
- Plan future activities
- Agree a constitution
- Elect a committee.

If you would like a copy of the proposed constitution before the meeting and/or you wish to stand for election to the committee, please inform John Purkiss by e-mail ([johnpurkiss@talk21.com](mailto:johnpurkiss@talk21.com)) or leave a note for him at the Southville Centre.

Light refreshments will be served, and we hope to see you there!

## Are you on our mailing list?

If you have received this letter by e-mail or there is an address label below, you are on our mailing list! If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send your name, address, telephone number and (if you have one) your e-mail address to John Purkiss (details above).