

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 3 – Autumn 2006



Mud mud, glorious mud!

Thanks to the South Bristol Caving Club, there is now a little less rubbish in the Cut. One summer evening, seven members of the club cleared an assortment of bicycles, shopping trolleys, ironwork and a mattress from under Vauxhall Bridge and along the riverbanks. Wallowing around in the mud was hot and dirty work, and they did a magnificent job. We are extremely grateful to them.



Trolley rescue

Photo by Tracy Whale

Creative use of the mud

Jo Young, a local artist, is planning to run a project that will involve local people in creating a series of clay tiles to be displayed in next year's South Bank Arts Trail. The Cut's mud will be used as a glaze and the tiles will depict images of the waterway's heritage. Watch out for details early next year.

For up-to-date news and information about FrANC, visit the Southville Centre website at www.southvillecentre.org.uk

New interpretation boards

Have you seen the three attractive new information boards that we have erected on the north side of the Cut? You will find them near to Gaol Ferry Bridge (this one focuses on history), Vauxhall Bridge (focussing on wildlife) and Ashton Bridge (describing the wildlife at Butterfly Junction).

Celebrating the Cut

"A Celebration of the Avon New Cut" is a new book produced by a group of local people and published by Fiducia Press. It has received high praise for its fascinating account of the Cut's history and wildlife, and its excellent collection of photographs, maps and illustrations.

The book will make a great present for your family and friends this Christmas. Why not buy some now? Copies are available at a very reasonable price of £7.00 from the Southville Centre and other outlets in South and Central Bristol.

Next FrANC meeting

FrANC's next meeting will be held at the Southville Centre at 7.30pm on Thursday 11 January 2007. Anyone with an interest in The Cut is welcome to attend, to find out about our latest plans, and to get involved in events and activities.

Keeping the Cut tidy

Bristol City Council has provided 2 new litterbins and erected 4 anti-litter signs on Coronation Road – we are grateful to Cllr Charlie Bolton (Southville) for organising this. Thanks too to Cllr Mark Wright (Cabot) who is trying to get more litterbins placed on Cumberland Road.

We have held a meeting with the manager of ASDA, who expressed his concern about litter on the Cut. He is proposing to erect fencing on the Coronation Road boundary of the store's car park in an attempt to prevent litter blowing across the road. The docks manager has offered to supply netting to be attached to railings opposite ASDA in an effort to stop litter blowing into the Cut. We are checking to see if the netting is suitable. We are also negotiating with the Council in an attempt to employ a contractor to clear litter from the steeply sloping riverbanks.

We are organising two volunteer working parties to clear litter from the more accessible parts of the Cut (see opposite). Our experience shows that the cleaner we can keep the Cut, the less likely people will dump more rubbish there.

The Chocolate Path

Concerns have been expressed from many local residents about the danger to pedestrians arising from cyclists speeding along the Chocolate Path. There have been several collisions and near misses in recent months. We have requested the Council to display more notices instructing cyclists to give way to pedestrians along this route, and we hope that this can soon be actioned. In the meantime, if you know of cyclists who use the path, please ask them to bear in mind that the Chocolate Path is not an off-road racetrack.

Forthcoming events

Butterfly Junction Saturday 25 November and Wednesday 27 December 2006

Join us to clear brambles etc to protect the sparse grass that certain caterpillars need for food. Start at 10.00am. Refreshments afterwards at the Riverside Garden Centre.

Clear up the Cut 1 Saturday 27 January 2007

Come and help us to remove rubbish from the banks of the Cut at Gaol Ferry Bridge and along Cumberland Road. Start at 10.00am at the bridge. Refreshments afterwards at the Riverside Garden Centre.

Clear up the Cut 2 Saturday 10 February 2007

Come and help us to remove rubbish from the banks of the Cut along Coronation Road between Gaol Ferry Bridge and Vauxhall Bridge. Start at 10.00am at Gaol Ferry Bridge. Refreshments afterwards at the Riverside Garden Centre.

Guided walks

Our next guided walk to explore the heritage and significance of the Cut will take place on Sunday 1 April 2007 starting at 10.00am. Further details will be announced in the Spring. We are also planning tree and butterfly identification walks and a wildlife discovery walk along the Cut next year. If anyone is interested in visiting wildlife areas beyond the Cut, please let us know.

Are you 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 (johnpurkiss@talk21.com) or leave a note for him at the Southville Centre.

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

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See also the Southville Centre website at www.southvillecentre.org.uk