

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 4 – Spring 2007



Events to look forward to!

Avon New Cut Trek

Sunday 1st April

Come on a guided walk around the Cut to learn about its history and wildlife. The walk will start at Gaol Ferry Bridge at 10am and will finish at the Create Centre at around 12 noon. There you will be able to enjoy coffee and cake, and add an image of the Cut to one of 200 clay tiles we are making to celebrate the bi-centenary of the New Cut (see opposite). This event is organised in conjunction with the Bristol Living Rivers Project. See you there!

Wildlife Discovery Walk

Sunday 20th May

Come and admire the spring flowers along the Cut and help us to identify them and the insects on the riverbank. Bring a wild flower or insect identification book if you have them. Meet at Vauxhall Bridge at 2pm. We aim to finish with a cup of tea at Riverside Garden Centre at around 4pm.

Birds of the New Cut

Thursday 7th June

Alison Leaf, who has made a study of birds on the Cut and the Harbour, is giving a talk at the Southville Centre at 7pm. This will last around 40 minutes and we shall then walk along the Cut to identify the birds we see, finishing for a drink at the Nova Scotia at around 9pm. Not to be missed!

Note: This event will include a brief Annual General Meeting immediately after Alison's talk (see overleaf).

For your summer diary:

Colliter's Brook Trek - Sunday 15th July.

Malago Trek - Sunday 5th August.

Both walks begin at 10am.

Celebrating the New Cut

10 days from Thursday 10th May

Local artist Jo Young is leading an exciting project involving people of all ages in creating 200 clay tiles, each containing an image of the Cut enhanced by the use of mud taken from the riverbed. The tiles will be displayed on Vauxhall Bridge during the Southville Arts Trail in May, after which we plan to find them a permanent home along the Cut.

Further details about the project – along with other news and information about the Friends of the Avon New Cut – are available on our web pages at www.southvillecentre.org.uk



Clay tiles on Vauxhall Bridge

photo: Jo Young

New leaflet on Butterfly Junction

Look out for our brand new leaflet on Butterfly Junction. Full of information on the butterflies and other wildlife that can be seen at this delightful spot, the leaflet is an invaluable aid to discovering "a hidden butterfly breeding ground in the heart of Bristol". Leaflets are available from the Southville Centre, the CREATE Centre and at all our walks and talks.

Why not buy a copy of our book "A Celebration of the Avon New Cut" at the same time? It's a great read!



Marbled white – just one of the species of butterfly that breeds at Butterfly Junction

Annual General Meeting

FrANC will soon be celebrating its first year as an independent organisation! Our first AGM will take place at the Southville Centre at 7.45pm on 7th June – immediately after Alison's talk on birds. This short business meeting will include a progress report, a financial report and election of Committee members. Nominations for the Committee should be sent in writing to the Secretary, John Purkiss, c/o the Southville Centre or by e-mail to johnpurkiss@talk21.com by 31 May.

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.

Keeping the Cut tidy

We are indebted to the 45 local residents who volunteered their help at 3 clear-up events on the Cut in January and February. Thanks to their efforts, the Cut looks a whole lot better. Now we need to keep it that way. People who spot fly tipping or abandoned trolleys on the Cut are urged to report these incidents to the Council's Customer Services Centre. Phone 0117 922 3838 or submit an online report at www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Environment-Planning/Rubbish-waste-and-recycling/fly-tipping---see-it-report-it-stop-it.en.

Our experiment of fitting netting to railings on Coronation Road to try and prevent litter from ASDA's car park blowing into the Cut (see newsletter no. 3) proved to be ineffective. The store manager has informed us that he intends to erect a fence along the boundary of his car park. We look forward to seeing it in place!

Developments on the Cut

Several planning applications that affect the Cut have been made in recent weeks. These include plans for a new Aardman Animations building in Gas Ferry Road (which will affect views towards Brandon Hill from Coronation Road), conversion of houses to flats (with a loss of gardens) at 60 and 61 Coronation Road, and a plan to build 140 flats in Cooperage Lane. Applications can be viewed on the City Council's website and comments sent by post, e-mail or online. For further information go to: www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Environment-Planning/Planning/commenting-on-planning-applications.en

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

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