

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 6 – Autumn 2007



Dates for your diary

Sunday 18th November

Come and help us clean up litter from the slipway beneath Gaol Ferry Bridge. Meet there at 10.00am. Gloves and litter pickers supplied, plus free coffee and cake afterwards!

Sunday 9th December

Join our maintenance working party at Butterfly Junction (below) which is situated adjacent to the CREATE Centre car park.



We shall be cutting back brambles and other invasive plants in order to protect the rough grass upon which several butterflies breed. Meet there at 10.00am. Wear strong shoes and warm clothing. Bring gloves and tools if you have them. Free coffee and cake afterwards!

Saturday 19th January 2008

Come and help us clean up litter from the banks of the New Cut along Cumberland Road. Meet at Gaol Ferry Bridge at 10.00am. Wear strong shoes and warm clothing. Gloves and litter pickers supplied, plus free coffee and cake afterwards! Children are welcome to help, provided they are accompanied by an adult.

Saturday 2nd February 2008

Come and help us clean up litter from the banks of the New Cut along Coronation Road. Meet at Gaol Ferry Bridge at 10.00am. Other details as for Saturday 19th January.

2009 celebrations!

2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Cut. How should we celebrate this occasion? Ideas so far include:

- A photographic exhibition
- A celebration to reflect the original celebration (hog roast, local beers, etc)
- A boat trip up the river.

We welcome your ideas, which should be sent to the FrANC secretary, John Purkiss. Either e-mail him at johnpurkiss@talk21.com or leave a note for him at the Southville Centre.

Energy from the Cut?

- Could electricity be generated from the Cut?
- How would the Cut be affected by a barrage across the River Severn?

Find out answers to questions like these at a

**Special FrANC meeting
to be held in
The Southville Centre
at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th January**

We have invited a knowledgeable speaker from Loadpoint Limited to talk about the possibilities. All welcome!

What is happening on the Chocolate Path?

During the recent summer months, unknown persons (believed to be from Bristol City Council) sprayed some sort of heavy-duty herbicide on each side of the Chocolate Path, killing off all the plants and the magnificent array of wildflowers that were much admired by people walking and cycling along this valuable green corridor.



We appreciate the need to prevent the path from becoming overgrown, but we want to know why this action had to be so brutal and why it was taken at the height of the flowering season. Not only has it reduced the path to a barren urban walkway, it has also exposed the rusty iron railings and litter strewn railway line. We are seeking an explanation from the Council, but have so far found it hard to obtain any answers.

It is particularly regrettable that this action coincided with the publication of an excellent article on the Wildlife of the New Cut by the Bristol Naturalists' Society (available on our web pages). It notes that "City centres are not often associated with abundant wildlife, and Bristol is exceptionally fortunate to have retained so much for so long". For how much longer, we wonder?

Keeping the Cut tidy

We are grateful to Bristol City Council for installing two more litterbins on Coronation Road opposite to the ASDA store. These were funded by the Safer Bristol Partnership.

A Council street scene officer has also met with ASDA's manager, to discuss the littering of the riverbank opposite the store with ASDA plastic bags and trolleys. The manager has undertaken to remove trolleys, to plant new bushes on the boundary of the store's car park (to try and reduce litter blowing across the road and into the Cut) and to install a plastic bag recycling bin at the store. He has also offered to investigate sources of funding to enable the riverbank to be cleared of litter. Watch this space!

People who spot fly tipping or abandoned trolleys on the Cut are urged to report these incidents to the Council's Customer Services Centre. Telephone 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.

The Cut at Christmas

"A Celebration of the Avon New Cut" is a fantastic 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 Christmas present. Copies are available from the Southville Centre at £7.00 each.

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

c/o The Southville Centre, Beaulay Road, Southville, BS3 1QG. Tel: 0117 923 1039.
See also the Southville Centre website at www.southvillecentre.org.uk



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