

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 7 – Winter 2008



A great improvement!

The Coronation Road riverbank looks a whole lot better thanks to the 26 volunteers who toiled away picking up a wide array of litter one Saturday morning in early February. The work party removed over one tonne of rubbish!



Photo by Richard Clutterbuck

Thanks to a grant from the Safer Bristol Partnership, we have arranged for the steep riverbank adjacent to ASDA's car park to be cleaned up. We are continuing to try and encourage ASDA to work with us to keep this stretch of the Cut in good condition.

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.

We are cleaning up the Cumberland Road riverbank on **Saturday 8th March**. 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.

Energy from the Cut?

A dozen people interested in the possibility of generating energy from the Cut attended a fascinating talk given by experts from Loadpoint Limited in January. They outlined their experimentation with a turbine that generates electricity when submerged in a river flow - and will work on both an incoming and outgoing tide.

They felt that the device would work in the waters of the Cut, but its effectiveness will be dependent on the velocity and quantity of the water at the point where it is located. Silt and debris in the Cut could be problematic, but these problems can be surmounted.

It was suggested that a turbine might be used to provide power to the Create Centre's EcoHome. First though, we need to find out more facts about the river. A working party was established to take the project forward – please contact the secretary (see details overleaf) if you wish to become involved.

2009 celebrations!

Plans are in the pipeline to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Cut next year. 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
- A street party
- New seating.

Why not come along to our meeting on 17th April (7.30pm in the Southville Centre) to help us plan these and other events?

South Bristol Riverscapes Project

This new project aims to improve waterways in the south of Bristol and involve more people in river support groups such as FrANC. A part-time development worker has been appointed to work on the project for 2 years. Her name is Helen Adshead.

Helen has many years' experience of developing projects at the Avon Wildlife Trust, and will be helping us to organise more activities and to increase our focus on the stretch of the Cut between Bedminster Bridge and Temple Meads.

She will be attending our next meeting on Thursday 17th April, to tell us more about the project and to find out how we can work effectively together.

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, supplemented by cash and donations in kind from the Bristol Living Rivers Project.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 30th March New Cut Trek

Come on a free guided walk around the Cut to learn about its history and wildlife. The walk starts at Gaol Ferry Bridge at 10.30am and finishes at the Create Centre between 12 and 12.30pm. There you will be able to enjoy light refreshments and help to create a visual map of the Cut. This event is organised in conjunction with the Bristol Living Rivers Project.

Thursday 17th April

Our next FrANC meeting at 7.30pm in the Southville Centre. Come and help us plan activities for the rest of this year and events to celebrate next year's 200th anniversary of the opening of The Cut. All welcome.

Summer events to look forward to

- A wildlife tour of the Cut
- Colliter's Brook Trek
- Malago Trek

More details in our next newsletter!

Preserving wildlife on the Avon New Cut

Butterfly Junction – next to the Create Centre car park – is home to several varieties of butterfly that breed in the grasses there. Over the winter, a working party (see below) cut back brambles and saplings to enable the grass to flourish and the butterflies to appear again next summer. Watch out for them!



Photo by Richard Clutterbuck

FrANC is a member of the Avon Junction Wildlife Partnership, which works to preserve wildlife around and opposite the Create Centre – including Butterfly Junction.

We are also planning to meet with the City Council to try to ensure that wildflowers are preserved along the Chocolate Path route adjacent to the river (see last newsletter).

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 e-mail address to FrANC's secretary John Purkiss (johnpurkiss@talk21.com) or leave a note for him at the Southville Centre.

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

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



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