

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 10 – Winter 2009



Lots to look forward to in 2009

2009 promises to be a busy one for FrANC! The high point will be our celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Cut on **Monday 4th May**. Note the date in your diaries now!

Events during the afternoon will include a hog roast, street theatre with Show of Strength, music, dancing, and fun and games for all the family. All this will take place adjacent to the SS Great Britain.

In the evening we're having a celebratory party with local Irish band "Sergeant Early's Dream" – to be held on the Grain Barge on Hotwells Road from 7pm to 11pm. Tickets will be available in March.

Watch out too for a special celebratory beer to be brewed by the Bristol Beer Factory!

Further details of these events will be announced in our next newsletter, and information on other activities during 2009 is given overleaf.



Cleaning up the riverbanks

We have set two dates to clean up litter from the banks of the Cut, and hope that you will join us. Free coffee and cake will be available afterwards!

Saturday 7th February

Coronation Road bank.

Saturday 7th March

Cumberland Road bank.

On both days we shall meet at 10.00am at Gaol Ferry Bridge and will finish by midday.

Please wear strong shoes and warm clothing. Bring protective gloves if you have them. Litter pickers will be provided – and gloves for those who do not bring their own. Children are welcome, but for insurance reasons anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

City Council activity

We are pleased to report that the Docks department of the City Council plans to clear debris from the riverbed before our New Cut 200 celebrations in May.

We are continuing to pursue the clearance of rubbish dumped on the riverbank at the rear of the Jet garage and TES tyres on Coronation Road.

The Council's 'Waste and Streetscene Enforcement Officer' has also undertaken to encourage ASDA to take effective measures to prevent bags and other litter blowing into the Cut from its car park, as the store's manager assured us he would do last year.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 7th February - clean-up of the Coronation Road riverbank (meet at 10am at Gaol Ferry Bridge).

Saturday 7th March - clean-up of the Cumberland Road riverbank (meet at 10am at Gaol Ferry Bridge)

Thursday 19th March - FrANC planning meeting. 7.30pm at the Southville Centre.

Thursday 25th June - Guided walk along the Cut to discover the herbs that grow there (starting at 7pm - starting point to be announced).

Sunday 26th July – our annual New Cut Trek led by Roy Gallop, which this year will focus on Cumberland Basin and Jessop's engineering works (start time and place to be announced).

New Cut 200 celebrations

Monday 4th May - bank holiday celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Cut (see overleaf).

Tuesday 5th May to Friday 15th May – photographic exhibition at the Create Centre (weekdays 9am to 6pm).

The exhibition will include photographs of local people's favourite views and features of the Cut - including bridges, buildings and wildlife. If you have taken photos that you would like to display, please contact Chris Woods at christop64@hotmail.com

To be arranged later in the year:

- A boat trip up the Cut.
- Installation of a bench on the Chocolate Path

News in brief

Butterfly Junction

Many thanks to all who joined our maintenance working party at Butterfly Junction last November. We cut back lots of brambles and other invasive plants in order to protect the rough grass upon which several butterflies breed. Look out for them in the summer!

Riverside Garden Centre

Staff at our local garden centre are setting up a viewing platform overlooking the Cut, and encouraging visitors to record the birds they see from there. It's a fantastic vantage point to do a spot of bird watching, and the centre's staff are obtaining binoculars and photographs to help you identify the birds you are likely to see. Why not pop in sometime and take a look?

Bus Rapid Transit System

The first stage of public consultation on this scheme has now been completed. We now know that the proposed route runs alongside the Chocolate Path which, we are told, will be retained. Precise details of the route along Cumberland Road and onwards to the City Centre and Temple Meads remain unclear. We shall keep a watch out for further details.

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See also www.southvillecentre.org.uk

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.

