

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 12 – Summer 2009



A great celebration!

“A great day and lots of fun” was the general verdict on our May 4th celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the opening of the New Cut. We cannot disagree!

Over 3,000 people joined in during the day, and thanks to “Perfectly Frank” they went away with a greater understanding and appreciation of the work involved in digging the Cut all those years ago.



Photo: Roy Gallop



Photo: Richard Clutterbuck

Perfectly Frank: The Man Who Dug The Cut was expertly written and produced by the Show of Strength theatre group.

We are very grateful to them and to everyone who performed during the day including the Clifton Jazzmen (left), the Harry Brown Shantymen, the O'Malley School of Irish Dance, Rag Morris, Somerset Morris, Pigsty Morris, Glen Eastman (children's activities) and Sergeant Early's Dream (below left).

Thanks must also go to all the volunteers who helped on the day and in preparing for the event during the preceding 8 months.



Photo: Richard Clutterbuck

Dates for your diary

Thursday 2nd July – Herb Walk and Annual General Meeting. Starts at the Southville Centre at 7.00pm. Our brief AGM will be followed by a guided walk along the Cut led by medical herbalist, Max Drake. The walk will finish at around 9.00pm.

Thursday 16th July – FrANC general meeting, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at the Southville Centre. Come and help us plan further events and activities.

Sunday 26th July – our annual New Cut Trek led by Roy Gallop, this year focusing on Cumberland Basin and Jessop's engineering works. Meet at the Create Centre at 10.30am.

Thursday 6th August – 200th Anniversary boat trip along the Avon Gorge and up the New Cut. 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Tickets £7.50 each from FrANC's secretary (see e-mail address in the box at the foot of this page).

Sunday 20th September – the annual Malago Trek. This popular walk follows the River Malago from its source on the Dundry Slopes all the way to the New Cut. Start time and meeting place to be confirmed.

New Cut Treasure Hunt

Have you tried our treasure hunt yet? Our illustrated leaflet provides a fun way to explore the Cut by yourself, as a family or with friends! Pick up a copy from the Create Centre or download it from FrANC's pages on the Southville Centre website.

The treasure hunt has been used by classes at Ashton Gate Primary School and Southville Primary School. It proved to be a great way to explore the river and discover more about its history and its wildlife along the way. More schools will be using it over the summer.

News in brief

Cleaning up the river and the banks

The City Council is arranging for litter to be cleared from the steeply sloping riverbanks along York Road, in front of ASDA and to the rear of the garage at the Ashton end of Coronation Road. They are also planning to appoint a contractor to remove debris from the riverbed.

In the meantime, congratulations to John Pursey of St Annes, who used his canoe to remove bicycles from the river east of Bedminster Bridge – and was featured in the Evening Post!

We shall be organising more of our own riverbank clean-up working parties during the winter months.

Bus Rapid Transit Route

We discussed this issue and its possible effect on the New Cut at a special meeting on 18th May. A statement has been drawn up, which will be presented to the West of England Partnership. To view it in full, look under "News" on FrANC's pages on the Southville Centre website.

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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.