

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 14 – Spring 2010



Spring has arrived!

Walk alongside the Cut and you will doubtless enjoy the wild flowers springing into life, the birds singing overhead, and the cleaner embankments – thanks to the 35 volunteers who kindly helped at our clean-up sessions in January and February.

You can also rest on our new bench (see overleaf) and join in some informative events during the year (see right and overleaf). In addition, the Cut provides a good subject for photographers – some of whose work we feature in this newsletter.



High tide 2 March 2010

Photo: Sara Worth

Spectacular tides

A considerable number of FrANC members were spotted on the banks of the river early on the morning of 2nd March, viewing one of the highest tides of the year. Quite spectacular it was too – and what a contrast to the Cut at low tide!



High tide 2 March 2010

Photo: John Purkiss

Events to look forward to

Wildflower Walk – Thursday 20th May

Pam Millman from the Bristol Naturalists Society will help us to identify the wide variety of wild flowers growing on the Coronation Road riverbank. Meet at 7.00pm at Vauxhall Bridge (Coronation Road side). We shall finish by 9pm. Free event, no need to book.

Herb Walk – Thursday 12th August

Max Drake from the Urban Fringe Pharmacy will provide a guide to herbs growing alongside the Cut and tell us about their medicinal uses. Meet at 7.00pm at Vauxhall Bridge (Coronation Road side). We shall finish by 9pm. Free event. Max will also be running a series of Saturday walks from the Create Centre this summer - see www.urbanfringe.org for details.

Boat trip up the Cut

We are organising another boat trip this year. The date will be confirmed later.

Another event

FrANC meeting - Thursday 15th April

Come and see an illustrated presentation of the Arnolfini's plans to create a "Ballast Seed Garden" at Cumberland Basin. Ballast consisting of stones, earth and shells was used to stabilise merchant sailing ships. It contained seeds native to the area where these materials had been collected. On arrival in Bristol, the ballast was unloaded and in many cases the stowaway seeds germinated. The meeting starts at 7.30pm at the Southville Centre, and will conclude with a roundup of news and information.

New Cut 200 bench

At the end of 2009 we installed a new bench to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the New Cut. Located near the east end of the Chocolate Path, it enables passers-by to rest and enjoy excellent views along the Cut. Our thanks go to Awards for All for providing a grant for this project.



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

More photos

Our New Cut boat trip offers views of the river that are not available from the banks, as this photo by Stephen Mason clearly shows.



Photo: Stephen Mason

Stephen has taken hundreds of photos of the Cut, many of which can be seen on Flickr.

To enjoy them, simply click on this link:

www.flickr.com/photos/esteph/collections

Bus Rapid Transit System

The City Council has now secured government funding towards the enormous cost of setting up a bus rapid transit route that will run alongside the Cut. We have attended consultation meetings with the planners over the past few months and are pleased that some of our concerns have been addressed. As a result:

- The mature trees at Spike Island Arts Centre will be preserved
- Butterfly Junction will be retained and steps taken to protect the area during construction works
- The infrastructure of the Underfall Yard itself should not be affected.

We do however remain concerned about the increased noise and air pollution that will arise along Cumberland Road and the Chocolate Path. Make sure you sit on our new bench and enjoy the peacefulness of the Cut before it is shattered by the sound of the buses we are told will run every 6 minutes!