

# Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 15 – Autumn 2010



## Forthcoming events

### Butterfly Junction

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

Several species of butterfly breed at Butterfly Junction because of the grasses that grow there. Every winter we cut back brambles and other invasive plants to enable the grasses to flourish. Come and join our working party at this wildlife site adjacent to the Create Centre car park. Meet there at 10.00am and wear strong shoes and warm clothing. Bring gloves and tools if you have them. Free coffee and cake afterwards!



Marbled White & Common Blue live at Butterfly Junction

### Riverbank clean-ups

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Coronation Road bank.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Cumberland Road bank.

On both days we will meet at 10.00am at Gaol Ferry Bridge and will finish by noon. Wear warm, waterproof clothing and strong shoes and bring protective gloves if you have them. We will supply spare gloves and litter-pickers. Free coffee and cake afterwards!

Please note that the riverbank clean-up events may be postponed at short notice in adverse weather conditions (eg. snow, torrential rain or strong winds). Check on our website for the latest information ([www.franc.org.uk](http://www.franc.org.uk)).

## Wild City!

Bristol City Council has been awarded a grant from Natural England to run a 3-year project aiming to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors, including those who have little or no contact with the natural environment. A project officer will be employed to work with groups across the city – including FrANC.

We are pleased to have been selected for involvement in this project and hope that it will lead to the New Cut being formally recognised as a Local Nature Reserve. Activities will include:

- School visits to the Cut
- More boat trips up the Cut
- A new interpretation panel to be located by Bedminster Bridge or the Banana Bridge
- A New Cut “Wild Waters” event (probably in 2012).

Further information will be provided in newsletters and on our website as details of the project unfold.

## Other plans for 2011

Other activities we are planning for next year include:

- Another boat trip up the New Cut
- A guided walk around Redcliffe
- A wildflower walk
- A bat detecting walk.

Dates will be finalised in the new year.

## Herbal remedies on the Cut

In August, Max Drake from the Urban Fringe Dispensary led us on a highly informative walk to discover herbs and other plants growing along the Cut that can benefit our health. Just three of many examples are shown below:



Mugwort – its flowering tops and leaves can be made into a tea, which helps to relieve stress and nervous tension. A good anti-depressant.



Hemp Agrimony – use its leaves to make a tea that will help to fight off colds and flu.



Hawthorn – use its flowers or berries to make a tincture that will help the heart. Especially recommended for older people!

## News in brief

### Treasure Hunt

Have you used our treasure hunt to explore the Cut yet? Leaflets are available from the Southville Centre or copies can be downloaded from our website ([www.franc.org.uk](http://www.franc.org.uk)). The answers are on the website too, but please resist the temptation to check them until you have completed the hunt!

### Cleaning the Cut

Our thanks go to the City Council for clearing some of the debris from the riverbed during the summer. There is more to remove, but we are pleased that a start has been made. Following our alert to the Council, they have cut down buddleia growing in the buttresses of Gaol Ferry Bridge that was threatening to weaken the structure.

If you spot fly tipping or abandoned supermarket trolleys along the Cut, we urge you to report details to Customer Services – telephone 0117 922 2100.

### FrANC committee

Our committee for the year 2010/11 was elected at our AGM in September. Its members are: John Purkiss (Chair), Sara Worth (Vice Chair), Liz Payze (Treasurer), Derek Hughes (Secretary), Roy Gallop and Adrian Mantle.

**Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)**  
c/o The Southville Centre, Beasley Road,  
Bristol BS3 1QG.  
Tel: 0117 923 1039.  
Website: [www.franc.org.uk](http://www.franc.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](mailto:johnpurkiss@talk21.com)) or leave a note for him at the Southville Centre.