

# Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 17 – Summer 2011



## Forthcoming events

### Bat Detecting Evening Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Led by Angus Tillotson, we shall learn about and search for bats residing along the Cut. There is no charge for this event but spaces are limited to 15 people. To book a place, please e-mail [contact@franc.org.uk](mailto:contact@franc.org.uk). The walk will start at 7.15pm. Details of the meeting place will be e-mailed to you with confirmation of your booking.



### Annual General Meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October

This important meeting will take place at the Southville Centre, starting at 7.30pm and ending by 9.00pm. Come and help us plan events and activities for 2012, hear about the Wild City project and elect a FrANC committee for 2011/12.

### Riverbank clean-ups Early 2012

Clean-ups will take place on the Coronation Road and Cumberland Road riverbanks in January and February 2012. Exact dates will be decided at our AGM.

## Wild City

The Avon New Cut is one of seven “key sites” involved in Wild City – a Bristol-wide project aiming to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors, including those who have little or no contact with the natural environment.

The seven key sites are:

- Avon New Cut
- Callington Road Local Nature Reserve
- Eastwood Farm Local Nature Reserve
- Hengrove Park Mounds and Hawkfield Meadow
- Lamplighter’s Marsh
- Northern Slopes
- Stoke Park.

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.

So far this year we have:

- Started work on the development of a 5-year management plan for the Cut
- Set up a team to design new interpretation boards to be located adjacent to the Banana Bridge and Bedminster Bridge
- Appointed a mentor to train a team of volunteers to guide and assist school parties wishing to explore the Cut’s wildlife or history.

Further details of the Wild City project are available on our website [www.franc.org.uk](http://www.franc.org.uk)

## Rapid Transit news

FrANC has been represented at recent consultation / information meetings regarding the proposed bus rapid transit system that might one day run alongside the Chocolate Path. The latest news includes:

- Bristol City Council is proceeding with an application for Government funding to run rapid transit vehicles from the Long Ashton Park & Ride to Bristol Temple Meads (BRT2). The Council is not proceeding with an alternative proposal for an ultra light rail transit system.
- Plans for a cantilevered pedestrian/cycle facility on Ashton Avenue bridge have been dropped. Pedestrians and cyclists will be kept safe on the bridge through the use of 'shuttle' traffic signals for the rapid transit vehicles.
- The Bristol Harbour railway terminus spur has been shortened.

Plans for a north-south bus rapid transit route (BRT3) include a new bridge across the Cut near ASDA Bedminster. Below is an artist's impression of how it might look.



The City Council plans to submit "best and final" funding bids for its BRT schemes to the Department for Transport by 9th September 2011. The Department will announce whether or not these schemes will progress by 31st December 2011.

## Thank you ...

To Roy Gallop for guiding us on a walk around Redcliffe in May and on our boat trip up The Feeder in July. Both were well attended and very illuminating.

To Pall Millman of the Bristol Naturalists Society for leading our wildflower walk in June. With her help we recorded over 100 species of plants growing along the north bank of the Cut between Vauxhall Bridge and the Create Centre. They included:



*Biting Stonecrop*



*Herb Robert*



*Chicory*

### **Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)**

c/o The Southville Centre, Beaulley 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 contact us through our website or leave a note for FrANC at the Southville Centre.