

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 18 – Winter 2012



Forthcoming events

Saturday 28th January

Coronation Road riverbank clean-up

10.00am to 12.00 noon. Meet at Gaol Ferry Bridge (south side). 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!

Saturday 25th February

Cumberland Road riverbank clean-up

10.00am to 12.00 noon. Meet at Gaol Ferry Bridge (north side). 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!

Note: These events may be postponed at short notice in adverse weather conditions (eg. snow, torrential rain or strong winds). Please check our website for the latest information.

Later in the year

We are planning more events for your entertainment! Details will be announced as they are finalised and will include:

- A literary walk
- A visit to another Wild City project
- Another bat detection walk.

Wild City

Big thanks to all those people who have been working on the Wild City project over the past few months. 3 teams have so far:

- Made progress with our development of a 5-year management plan for the Cut
- Worked on the design of new interpretation boards to be located adjacent to the Banana Bridge and Bedminster Bridge
- Undertaken training to guide and assist school parties and other groups wishing to explore the Cut's wildlife and history.

Further details of the Wild City project are available on our website www.franc.org.uk

This work has already led to improvements on the Coronation Road riverbank, where saplings needed to be thinned out and we wanted some of the views across the river opened up. We are extremely grateful to Justin Smith (Bristol City Council's Woodland and Wildlife Officer) and the Blue Skies team for carrying out this work.



Bus Rapid Transit plans

Readers will probably already know that the Government has approved funding towards the proposed Ashton Vale to Bristol Temple Meads bus rapid transit route. The route doesn't actually go right to Temple Meads, but that is the title that is being used!

Many people are opposed to this scheme, not least because of the increased noise and pollution it will bring to the Cut and the potential damage to river bridges and the Chocolate Path.

It will also adversely affect wildlife on the Cut and will most probably destroy Butterfly Junction – a wildlife haven that we have worked hard to maintain and improve over the past 6 years. Moreover, it will put the future of the historic Harbour Railway at risk.

A public inquiry will be held later in the year (probably in May) at which people who have previously sent objections to the Department for Transport will be entitled to present their case. Each objector is required to send a 'statement of case' to the Department by Friday 27th January 2012.

If you have objected and you would like to work with others on preparing your case, please e-mail us (contact@franc.org.uk) and we will put you in touch with a group that is working on this issue.



Buses like this could soon be thundering along a concrete track next to the Chocolate Path.

Rubbish!

Many people who frequently walk across Gaol Ferry Bridge have noted that the litter bins are not being emptied as regularly as they used to be. They are often overflowing, which results in litter falling on to the slipways that we try to keep clean and tidy. We have requested the Council to empty the bins more frequently, but at the time of writing we are uncertain of their response.

If you spot overflowing bins, fly tipping or abandoned supermarket trolleys anywhere along the Cut, we urge you to report details to Customer Services – tel. 0117 922 2100. Please don't assume that someone else has reported it. Simply make that call!

Thank you to:

- Angus Tillotson for leading our bat detection walk last Autumn and to Bristol City Parks for the loan of bat detectors.
- The volunteers who tidied up Butterfly Junction in December.
- Everyone who is contributing to the Wild City project.
- The outgoing FrANC committee and the members of the 2011/12 committee who were elected at our AGM last October. They are: John Purkiss (Chair), Sara Worth (Vice Chair), Derek Hughes (Secretary), Liz Payze (Treasurer) and Roy Gallop.

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If you are not on our mailing list and you would like to be, please contact us through our website or leave a note for FrANC at the Southville Centre.