

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 19 – Spring 2013



This is the first Newsletter from the FrANC Committee elected at the AGM in September 2012*. It has been a busy few months; coming to terms with the sad death of John Purkiss, a founder member and Chair of FrANC, has left us a little daunted at times.

With the help of many FrANC members we are finding our way – and would like to thank each of you for supporting and encouraging us during this time.

FrANC is a great organisation and we are determined that it will thrive and grow.

Thank you!

Forthcoming events

Wednesday 17th April

Open Meeting

Come and join us at the Southville Centre from 7.30pm – 9:00pm to hear what we have planned for the coming months and also to tell us what you would like to see happening. We have some wonderful aerial shots of The Cut and surrounding area....we'll bring them along.

Events planned for this year

Further details of events planned for this year will be announced as they are finalised, but so far they include:

- A possible clean-up along York Road in May
- A Herb Walk in May/June
- A Bat Detection Walk in September

* The members of the 2012/13 FrANC Committee who were elected at the AGM in September 2012 are:

Sara Worth (Chair), Roy Gallop (Vice Chair), Derek Hughes (Secretary), Liz Payze (Treasurer) and Chris Hanmer, Ed Hall and Margaret Fay.

Volunteers are important...

If you'd like to say what volunteering does for you there is an opportunity below:

"Hello from Sarah Plaskett!

I am a student of Cardiff University in the final year of a degree in Occupational Therapy. As part of my final year I am completing a research project entitled...

'How does volunteering as part of a green community group affect the health and well-being of the volunteer and the wider community?'

The questionnaire is online and so far has taken people between 5 - 15 minutes to complete.

This research is incredibly important to me and I would love to get as many responses as possible, in fact every response is gratefully received. I appreciate that taking time out of your day to help a stranger may be a strain, but hopefully this is a subject close to your heart and you will be able to spare me some of your precious minutes."

Here is the link to the questionnaire...

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VVQ8B7F>

Bus Rapid Transit update

Readers will have heard that our newly-elected Mayor, George Ferguson, has directed that the original plans for the BRT2 route to go along the harbour and over Prince Street Bridge are unacceptable – which is great news for FrANC and The Cut. Nevertheless, the final route has yet to emerge.

There are two preferred options, one of which we believe will still adversely affect wildlife on The Cut and at Butterfly Junction – a haven for butterflies that we have worked hard to maintain and improve over the past 7 years.

Walks around The Cut

You may be aware that a group of FrANC members have been offering to escort children from local schools around The Cut. This has been very rewarding and helps to promote the importance of The Cut to children and their parents. We could do with some more volunteers, so if you can spare a few half days per year to assist please get in touch via our website to find out what this would entail.

Rubbish!

Huge thanks to the many volunteers who joined in our **THREE** clean-ups this year (in January, February and March). With a total of 69 attendees across all three dates that makes for over 130 hours of litter-picking. We didn't count the bags each time, but on the small stretch between Bedminster Bridge and the traffic lights near ASDA (which was a first for FrANC) we collected 27 **very** large bags of general rubbish as well as some old traffic cones, wheel trims and two traffic light lamps! In addition, we took three large bags of bottles and plastics to the recycling bank in the ASDA car park.

We intend to write to the management at ASDA and lay down a challenge – to help us to keep their local environment 'litter free'.

Wild City

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

- Made progress with our development of a 5-year Management Plan for The Cut
- Completed work on the design and installation of new Interpretation Boards, now located adjacent to the Banana Bridge and Bedminster Bridge – **go and take a look!**
- We are now considering options for one or two additional Interpretation Boards – towards Bath Road Bridge (Temple Meads).
- Exploring contacts within the local schools to encourage interest in The Cut with young people in our community.
- 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.

Help us keep The Cut looking beautiful

If YOU spot overflowing bins, graffiti, fly tipping or abandoned supermarket trolleys anywhere along The Cut, we urge you to report details to Bristol City Council Customer Services – tel. 0117 922 2100 - or via www.bristol.gov.uk (for any concern you have).

We've found the graffiti team to be excellent – the problem is often dealt with within 48 hours.

Please don't assume that someone else has reported it. Simply make that contact!

Butterfly Junction Maintenance

In December 2012 our annual meadow management of Butterfly Junction took place. Thank you to the 13 people who assisted with this. This work helps to ensure that the numerous species of butterfly that use this area for breeding will flourish.



Time to socialise after the event



Job done!



Memorial to John Purkiss

Over the past few months we have been gathering people's views on what might be a fitting memorial to John. We are considering planting a tree next to the FrANC bench which is at the top of the Chocolate Path (Cumberland Road). We know John enjoyed sitting here and taking in the view towards Ashton. We will discuss this further at the FrANC Open Meeting in April and arrange a date for a small planting ceremony.



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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.