

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 20 – Autumn 2013



High tide at Goal Ferry Bridge, Spring 2010

We are pleased to report that FrANC is flourishing. It has been a busy few months; you will see some of the activities that have been taking place by reading this Newsletter.

The picture opposite was taken by Richard Clutterbuck – a valued FrANC member who, over the years, has recorded events at no charge to FrANC. There is news of how you will soon be able to access more of his work as you read on.

FrANC is a great organisation so please help us in our determination that it will thrive and grow.

Thank you for your support.

Forthcoming events

Saturday 30th November 2013

Come and join us at Butterfly Junction for some meadow management – ensuring the butterflies have best chance of breeding in this beautiful spot. Wear sturdy shoes, bring your secateurs and gardening gloves if you have them. We'll meet at 10.00am and aim to finish for complimentary tea and cakes by 12.30pm.

AGM Sunday 8th December 2013

The format for the AGM will be slightly different this year as we wanted to combine the AGM (and election of the committee) with the planting of a Hawthorn tree beside the FrANC bench on the Chocolate Path. The tree is to be planted in memory of John Purkiss – a founder member of FrANC – who sadly died last year. We will meet at Spike Island café at 2.00pm....a quick AGM (you can purchase a drink at the café) and then, for those who wish to do so, on to the planting of the tree.

If the weather is fine we may well have a stroll around The Cut afterwards.

Wild City

We are grateful to all those people who have continued to work on the Wild City Project over the past few months. Achievements this year include:

- The 5-year Management Plan for The Cut is near to completion.
- Working alongside members of CLASS (Continued Learning at South Street) on a booklet describing the industrial history along The Cut, to be offered as a resource for local schools.
- We are now hoping to refurbish the original Interpretation Boards along The Cut – and are seeking funding for this.
- We continue to link with the local schools to encourage more young people to take an interest in The Cut.

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

Rubbish!

The battle goes on! As last year, we are going to try three Saturday morning sessions again, starting in early 2014. ASDA have been advertising that they want to help local areas to combat litter – so we intend to ask for their assistance when we tackle the area near the supermarket again. Last spring we estimate that collectively we undertook over 130 hours of litter-picking.

We are grateful to Eric Dougall, Estate Services Officer based at the Harbourmaster's Office, who has provided funds to tackle the bulk rubbish behind the garage on Coronation Road and on the bank along York Road where there are large items including sofas, fridges etc. We felt it would be unsafe to attempt this ourselves. The work will take place in January, when the undergrowth has died down. There is also enough money put aside to remove the scaffolding that is stuck in the mud in the centre of The Cut.

Dates for Litter Picking 2014

Saturday 25th January: South Bank

Saturday 22nd February: North Bank

Saturday 22nd March: opposite ASDA

Please put the above dates in your diary – but we'll also remind you nearer the time via e-mail.

At the AGM we'll discuss a proposal for taking regular strolls along The Cut, clearing easily-accessible rubbish as we go.

Walks around The Cut

We have helped Helen Adshead and her colleagues from the Wild City team to organise three walks around The Cut - two for the children of St Mary Redcliffe Primary school, who are busy with learning about their locality and rivers. Two FrANC members also led a walk in the summer for a group of adults as part of the Walk for Health project. It is always a great privilege to show off the area and tell people a little about its wildlife and history.

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! The more reports they receive the more likely they are to act.



Photo: Richard Clutterbuck

Bus Rapid Transit update

Readers will recall that Mayor George Ferguson has directed that the original plans for the BRT2 route (now renamed **Metrobus**) to go along the harbour and over Prince Street Bridge were unacceptable – great news for FrANC and The Cut. Nevertheless, the final preferred route is now Cumberland Road. We fear that this proposed route will have an adverse on impact Ashton Bridge, Butterfly Junction and the area that we all currently enjoy. Representations are still being made. For more information please visit the website www.StopBRT2.org.uk, or you can follow www.facebook.com/stopbrt2.

Summer with FrANC

We enjoyed three terrific events over the summer which reminded us how richly diverse and interesting the area is.

Iain Stewart's medicinal herb walk (see right) introduced us to the potential herbal remedies growing on our doorstep. Be sure to check before you try! This event was also FrANC's contribution to the *Bristol99* project.



Photo: Richard Clutterbuck

Our final event was a Bat Detection Evening, led by Angus Tillotson (see right), whose considerable knowledge helped us to locate several bats in the vicinity of The Cut and local parks. Armed with bat detectors, we were able to identify the different calls of bats – some chattering whilst others were apparently seeking a mate! Another fascinating event.



Photo: Richard Clutterbuck

A literary summer walk (on the hottest day of the year!), coordinated by our Vice Chair Roy Gallop (see left), included dramatised re-enactments of some historical events by Mark Steeds and Marie Clifford, and some singing too by Pete Tomlinson.



Photo: Richard Clutterbuck

More photographs by Richard Clutterbuck will soon be available from a link on our website. If you wish to explore booking a photographer professionally you can contact Richard by e-mailing: Richard.clutterbuck@hotmail.com.



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

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.

Photo: Richard Clutterbuck