

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 23 – Summer 2015

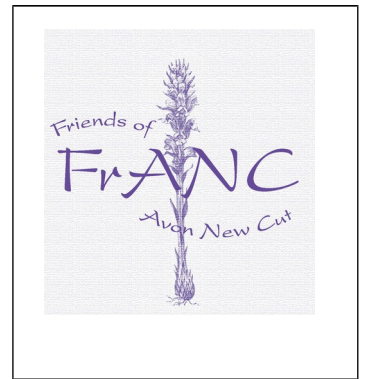


Photo: courtesy of Underfall Yard Trust

Welcome to our Newsletter – giving information about the things we have achieved, events that are on the horizon and also longer-term projects that FrANC members have a stake in. We recognise that people have different interests and amounts of time to give and we are grateful to all contributors - as we strive to make the Avon New Cut a pleasant place for walking and cycling, as well as for birds, animals, flowers and trees to thrive.

Contact us by visiting our website at www.franc.org.uk.

Forthcoming events

Walk in and around the Underfall Yard on Tuesday 16th June

We will gather at the car park by the Harbour Master's office at 7pm – to allow Sarah Murray (who will lead the event) to start the walk at 7.15pm. The usual donation of £2 per person will be appreciated. These monies help to cover running costs of FrANC activities. An interesting evening of around 1½ hours is promised and of course there is the opportunity for refreshments afterwards at a local hostelry.

Sarah has written a short article for this Newsletter (see next page) which contains information about the plans for the future of this Ancient Monument Site.

Big Butterfly Count 2015

This year's Big Butterfly Count will run from 17th July to 9th August. This is an annual nationwide survey, organised by the charity Butterfly Conservation, whose objective is to assess the health of our environment by counting butterflies. We are especially keen to monitor the butterflies at Butterfly Junction given the potential disruption due to MetroBus activity in the area. More news in early July, with an offer of support where needed.

Boat Trip up the Avon New Cut as far as Netham Weir on Saturday 24th October, starting around 2.30pm

The price for this trip will be £15 per person and numbers are limited to 40. To book your place you will need to first email our Secretary at derekwhughes@btinternet.com. Derek will then ask for you send a cheque payable to 'Friends of The Avon New Cut' or arrange a cash payment. On receipt of this you will be sent your tickets. We have already had expressions of interest from around 20 people. Payment (not just saying you'd like to come!) will secure your place – so don't delay. The trip will last around three hours; full details will be given to those with tickets nearer the time. We have worked out finances to cover the cost of the boat hire, so no reduction for children can be made.

Green Capital Funding

We were successful in obtaining Bristol 2015 European Green Capital funding via two Neighbourhood Partnerships to install another Interpretation Board on the Chocolate Path near the Underfall Yard sluices. We are in the process of finalising the artwork and text and will keep you informed of progress.

Litter Picking 2015

Our key activity for the year so far.....and what a great difference it has made. We are grateful to Bristol City Council for so helpfully loaning us some additional litter pickers, providing us with the rubbish sacks and to Keir Services for so unfailingly collecting the big piles that we leave behind at the end of each session!

Thank you to the many volunteers who so cheerfully give their time – we've had 3 organised Saturday morning sessions and some impromptu mini sessions; the latter ensured that when we had our evening walk in May we were not distracted by carrier bags and plastic/polystyrene items.

People have asked why we don't have organised sessions in summer.....it is because we don't want to trample on the flowers or disturb the nesting birds, etc. Don't let that stop you from picking up litter along the edges of The Cut if you feel inspired!

Plans are afoot for some help with clearing the stretch of bank alongside York Road (between Bedminster and Bath Road bridges) of litter and brambles – in the autumn so as not to destroy wildlife – and then FrANC can incorporate this area for regular maintenance.



Application for LNR Status

We are now so close it is almost upon us. The final papers are now with the Council's legal department and as 2015 sees Bristol as the European Green Capital we have every confidence that the final push needed will happen. The Council plans to have an official celebration in **October** – so watch out for news!

“Basins and Bridges of the Avon New Cut” walk

This really successful walk was led by our Vice Chair, **Roy Gallop**. It was held in May as FrANC's contribution to this year's *Bristol Walk Fest* and was attended by 34 people. The feedback – both from comments and our feedback sheets – was very positive. A big thank you to Roy for sharing his extensive knowledge in such an accessible way.



The Underfall Yard Trust (author: Sarah Murray)

Underfall Yard Trust is undertaking an exciting project to safeguard the red brick buildings, including the Grade 2* listed landmarks the Power House and chimney; it will also bring abandoned workshop space back into use. The project includes the creation of a Visitor Centre for the yard in the Power House, which will be free of charge to visitors and is due to open Easter 2016. We are working with a wonderful team of volunteers to research the Underfall Yard and interview a wide range of people to ensure that we record the personal stories and memories of current and former staff, tenants at the yard, those involved in the Trust, as well as local residents and more widely those with a story to tell.

If you would like to share your story or find out about the project, please contact Sarah Murray at sarah@underfallboatyard.co.uk.

For more information please visit our website: www.underfallboatyard.co.uk, join our mailing list or follow us on social media:

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