

Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 24 – Autumn 2015



Forthcoming events

Butterfly Junction Maintenance on Saturday 5th December 2015

10.00am to 12.00 noon; meet at Butterfly Junction (near Create Centre) and bring secateurs, gardening gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Complimentary coffee/tea and cake afterwards!

Dates for Litter Picking 2016

Please put the following dates in your diary for Litter Picking next year:

Saturday 9th January: South Bank

Saturday 20th February: North Bank

Saturday 19th March: opposite ASDA

All of the above are from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. We'll send out reminders, including details of meeting locations, nearer the time via e-mail. Wear warm, waterproof clothing and strong shoes and bring protective gloves if you have them. We will supply spare gloves, litter-pickers and rubbish bags. Complimentary coffee/tea and cake afterwards!

Other Events for 2016

Details will be announced as they are finalised and will include:

- an illustrated talk about the New Cut from a member of the Bristol Records Office, including archive material;
- a Tree Walk along the banks of York Road;
- a visit to the Underfall Yard Trust's Visitor Centre (once it opens);
- a themed walk organised as FrANC's contribution to *Bristol Walk Fest 2016*;
- participation in next year's *Big Butterfly Count* at Butterfly Junction;
- a celebration and awareness event to mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of FrANC.

New Interpretation Board

Thanks to the generosity of two local Neighbourhood Partnerships (Greater Bedminster and Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East) in awarding FrANC a Green Capital grant, the New Cut now has a sixth Interpretation Board! This new board is located on the Chocolate Path by the sluices of the Underfall Yard. A photograph of the newly-installed board is shown below; why not take a stroll and read what it has to say about the area in which it sits?



Local Nature Reserve

After several years of working in partnership with various Bristol City Council (BCC) officers we were delighted to learn, in September, that the Avon New Cut has now officially been designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR)! Well done to the founder members of FrANC for setting this as a potential objective for this beautiful area and for sticking with it (nearly ten years has passed). We believe that achieving LNR status will help both BCC and FrANC to secure future funding to improve this part of Bristol, as well as enhancing people's awareness.

MetroBus

We have been involved in discussions with Balfour Beatty regarding the protection of the part of Butterfly Junction that is managed by FrANC whilst construction of the adjacent MetroBus concrete busway and bus stops are in progress. Consequently, the contractor has agreed to erect a solid wooden fence to protect this unique wildlife habitat. Work on the fence is essentially complete (see below), in time for the next Butterfly Junction maintenance activity planned for the beginning of December.



A captured highlight from October...

The Boat Trip organised by FrANC up the Avon Gorge and New Cut on board *The Brigantia* took place as planned on 24th October. Despite a soggy start, the weather improved considerably during the latter part of this 3½-hour trip, and we were rewarded with some stunning views of our objective, Netham Weir, in bright sunshine (see below):



Heritage Lottery Fund Grant

It is with great excitement that we are able to announce our successful bid for a “Sharing Heritage” grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In summary, we have secured up to £9,900 to improve the area between Bathurst Basin and Bath Road Bridge.

The improvements will include clearing the riverbanks adjacent to York Road (an area previously neglected), installing a further two Interpretation Boards, the provision of two benches, the creation of a leaflet describing a self-guided walk around the New Cut and monies to allow us to hold a Celebration Event with the aim of encouraging and engaging the wider local community.

We will hold a general meeting for FrANC members in the New Year to look at how we take these plans forward.

Annual General Meeting

This year’s Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 1st November. Roy Gallop stood down as Vice Chair, but remains as a Committee Member. All remaining Committee Members were re-elected. Tess Green (a founder member of FrANC and a previous Chair) was elected to replace Roy as Vice Chair.

In her report our Chair, Sara Worth, thanked individual BCC officers for their guidance and support over the past year – and, as always, gave a big “thank you” to the FrANC membership for their time and enthusiasm, which allows FrANC to thrive.

A full copy of the Chair’s report on our activities during 2014/2015 can be found on the FrANC website (see panel below).

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If you are not on our mailing list and you would like to be, please contact us through the above website or via our Secretary, Derek Hughes (Tel: 0117 9544 888)