

# Friends of the Avon New Cut Newsletter 27 – Winter 2016/17



FrANC  
Friends of the Avon New Cut

Happy New Year and welcome to the latest edition of the FrANC Newsletter, in which we look back at some of our achievements during 2016 and forward to events planned for 2017.

## New Website launched

Those of you who have visited the FrANC Website recently will have noticed that its format and content have changed – quite significantly! A major upgrade of the Website has just been completed, thanks to a grant of £1,000 from Bristol City Council (BCC) Local Nature Reserve funds together with match funding received from the University of the West of England (UWE).

Improvements made to the new Website include access to the FrANC Constitution, Committee Meeting minutes and AGM reports together with the wealth of photos and videos that are available from the FrANC archives. Visitors will also be able to download copies of the various leaflets that have been produced by FrANC over the years.

The Website address is unchanged and you can access it by visiting [www.franc.org.uk](http://www.franc.org.uk). Our thanks go to Lisa Freidberg and Marton Gosztonyi from UWE who were instrumental in carrying out this work for us.

## New FrANC logo!

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have also noticed that the FrANC logo in the top right-hand corner of this Newsletter is different from that shown in previous editions. In parallel with the Website upgrade, our logo has also been redesigned to be consistent with the appearance of the Website content. The logo still features the ivy broomrape, however, which featured in the original version.

## Forthcoming events

### Dates for Litter Picking 2017

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

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

All of the above are from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. The first session in January is likely to be along York Road, as the Coronation Road riverbank was cleared of litter by volunteers from the Environment Agency at the end of November (see overleaf). Further reminders, including details of meeting locations, will be sent out via e-mail and posted on the FrANC Website nearer the time of each session. As usual, complimentary coffee/tea and cake will be available afterwards!

### Other Events for 2017

Further details will be announced as they are finalised, but so far our plans include:

- a tour of Britain's largest traditional tannery, Thomas Ware and Sons Ltd., which is located on Coronation Road;
- a themed walk organised as FrANC's contribution to *Bristol Walk Fest 2017*, which will be led by one of our Committee members, Ed Hall;
- a "Botanical" Walk along the New Cut riverbank;
- participation in next year's *Big Butterfly Count* at Butterfly Junction.

In addition, Roy Gallop's proposed "Bedminster/Southville Colliery Site Walk" might now merge with an *acta Community Theatre* production about our local coal pits - Roy is currently investigating possibilities.

## Riverbank Clean-ups with the Environment Agency

On two occasions during the past year we were contacted by the Environment Agency (EA), who offered to provide volunteers to spend a day doing “activities with an environmental benefit”. The last of these activities was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November when four members of the FrANC Committee were joined by twenty EA volunteers to carry out what turned out to be a mammoth litter-pick. Over the course of the morning and afternoon, we managed to cover the whole length of the Coronation Road riverbank (from Bedminster Bridge to the Harvest Energy petrol station), as well as the Goal Ferry Bridge slipways, the Cumberland Road riverbank and part of the Harbour Railway rail track. The photo below shows some of those who took part after our lunch break at Spike Island café.



## New FrANC Constitution

Proposed changes to the FrANC Constitution were voted on and passed at the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November. The new Constitution, as well as the minutes of the AGM (which includes a full report on our activities during 2015/16), can be viewed on the new FrANC Website ([www.franc.org.uk](http://www.franc.org.uk)).

## FrANC Committee 2016/17

The members of the 2016/17 FrANC Committee who were re-elected at the AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> November were Sara Worth (Chair), Tess Green (Vice-Chair), Derek Hughes (Secretary), Steve Fay (Treasurer), Richard Clutterbuck, Margaret Fay, Roy Gallop, Ed Hall, Chris Hanmer and Angie Tonge.

## Achievements during 2016

2016 was a particularly busy year for the FrANC Committee. As well as organising three themed walks and talks, riverbank clean-ups along Coronation Road and Cumberland Road and participating in the annual *Big Butterfly Count* at Butterfly Junction, we completed the following activities as part of the “Sharing Heritage” grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund:

- two additional Interpretation Boards (bringing the total to eight) are now in situ, located at Bathurst Basin and just before Bath Bridge on York Road;
- two new benches have been placed on Clarence Road – one either side of the Banana Bridge. A big “thank-you” to Nature Conservation Officer Becky Belfin who was extremely helpful in liaising with various BCC departments to make this happen;
- the riverbank along York Road has been cleared of excess shrubs and litter, thanks to *ParkWork*, *Volunteering Matters* and many FrANC volunteers;
- a new leaflet entitled “*Circular Walks around the Avon New Cut*” has been designed and 1000 copies printed;
- the “FrANC Fest” Celebration Event, which was held at St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Our thanks go to the *Water City Bristol* project who helped us to organise and run this event. Thanks are also due to Chris Hanmer, who made the rather splendid cake shown below to mark FrANC’s 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday:



We look forward to seeing you in 2017 !