

FrANC Newsletter May 14th 2019

THANK YOU to all members for continuing to support the work of FrANC. This newsletter starts with a celebration of the fine weather in 2019 which allowed four successful meetings to clear long stretches of the banks. Thanks to Spike Island Café and Harry's Café for offering a good place to unwind after our efforts.

PHOTO

Springwatch Survey

On April 7th six of us explored the banks both sides of The Cut by Gaol Ferry Bridge to identify flowers, shrubs and trees growing there. The next day Roy and Tess continued the search, walking back from Temple Meads along the south bank. We identified nearly 100 species in an hour and a half. The list below speaks for itself. Can anyone identify the flowers in the photographs? Do consider joining us for the Summerwatch survey on the evening of Thursday 27th June (location to be confirmed).

Dandelion	Wall speedwell	Fennel	April 8 th list:
Cow parsley	Periwinkle	Thistle	Fig
White valerian	Holly	Red Hemp nettle	Wood spurge
Red valerian	Bluebell	Hairy bittercress	English stonecrop
Ivy	Sycamore in flower	Round headed leek	Feverfew
Couch grass	Privet	(Bristol onion) !!!!!	Fat hen
Hawthorn	Laurel Spindle	Spanish bluebell	Reed grass
Wild cherry	Dogwood	Rowan/Mountain Ash	
Plantain	Muscari or Grape	Willow	And...Birds seen by both
Groundsel	Hyacinth	Bindweed	groups:
Sycamore	White bluebell	Common winter cress	Blackbird + nest
Prickly sow thistle	Hogweed? (Photo)	(yellow)	Goldfinch
Cleavers	Hemlock? (Photo)	Dock	Bluetit
Celandine	Moss	Hedge mustard	Long tailed tit
Bramble	Herb Robert	Sage	Cormorant
Ivy-leaved toadflax	Star-leaved Ivy	Clover	Robin
Horse chestnut	Stinging nettle	Euphorbia	
Wild aster	Elder	Daffodil	
Blackthorn	Pendulous sedge	Narcissus	
Campanula	Chickweed	Buttercup	
Holm oak	Flowering cherry	Poppy	
Teasel	Wild rose	Dovesfoot cranesbill	
Beech	Feverfew(Photo)	Buddleia	
Old Mans	Silver birch	Mexican Fleabane	
Beard/Traveller's	Pyracanthus	Alexanders Apple	
Joy/ Clematis	Alpine Pennycress	Ragwort	
Hypericum	Common speedwell	Oak	
Vetch	Willowherb		

PHOTO

Bristol Walks Festival

A big thank you to Ed Hall who has volunteered to lead two walks as FrANC's contribution to the Bristol May Walking Festival. The first on May 8th had to compete with the hailstones and heavy showers.

The second, on Tuesday May 28th is in the evening, 7-9pm. Ed says: *This walk will start, and finish, at The Cottage Pub on Cumberland Road. We will explain why the Floating Harbour was created. We will walk through the Underfall Yard and around Cumberland Basin and look at the locks and bridges and New Cut to help understand how they contributed to the operation of the Floating Harbour. There's also much history in the area to cover.*

To book a place contact Ed: 07805 007304 or email edwinjhall@yahoo.co.uk. A charge of £3 will go to FrANC funds.

A wider, whole city perspective:

The next meeting of the **Bristol Parks Forum** will be this Saturday 18th May, 9.30am at Summerhill Methodist Church, St George - 5 Air Balloon Road BS5 8LB. See www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

1. Heather Elgar will speak from the **West of England Nature Partnership**. WENP are about to launch a Nature Recovery Network for the West of England so this will be a great opportunity to help shape and give feedback on the vision of nature's recovery vis-a-vis the role of parks
2. Update on the plans of the newly appointed **volunteer co-ordinator**, Ella Hogg.
3. An update on the **Parks Foundation**
3. A brief update on our **Vision**.
4. Consider how the BPF should respond to the review of the Local Plan
5. **The Festival of Nature** this year is on Saturday 1st June in Bath and Sat 8th & Sun 9th June in Bristol. As in previous years, they will be asking for volunteers to help on the stand. www.bnhc.org.uk/festival-of-nature/

Bristol Ferry Boats Summer Trips up the Avon Gorge.

The trip on Saturday 13th July is sold out; but the trip on Tuesday, August 27th has 19 places remaining. Rare excursions because of the considerations of the tidal patterns but really worth it to explore the very river of which we are *The Friends!* Contact www.bristolferry.com

Environment Agency Away Days

Following the successful involvement of teams from the Environment Agency in work on Butterfly Junction last Autumn we plan to host another working party during the day on **Thursday June 13th**. They are clearly keen to leave their Deanery Road HQ for some local river bank litter-picking and learn about The Cut. Anyone in FrANC is welcome to join us on the day. We may well also have a repeat of the Autumn visit if you can't make the June date.

Check out these local groups

- (i) **My Wild Bedminster** – regular upbeat updates on what is spotted in our area and contacts to other groups. Contact MyWildBedminster@virginmedia.com to ask to be on the mailing list
- (ii) **BS3 Helping Others** (FB) Group, now has 43 local charities in its Volunteer Directory. We would like to remind you that you are also most welcome to advertise regularly (ie monthly), your volunteer vacancies on this facebook group. We will be contacting you in the future to talk about how you can recruit more volunteers through our Tuesday morning and Monday evening Meet-Ups at the Tobacco Factory. Best wishes Catherine Westcott: www.facebook.com/bs3helpingothers
Email: bs3helpingothers@gmail.com

Warning!! FrANC activities at risk of suspension...

...unless we ensure more of us are qualified in the necessary Bristol City Parks Health and Safety course for volunteers. We need trained volunteers to validate our insurance when doing our river bank clearances. Please contact Chair, Tim Wickstead (wickstead@gmx.co.uk) if interested in attending the courses provided.

Advance Notice of AGM

A date for diaries: the Committee has picked the afternoon of **Sunday 17th November** for the AGM. Not sure where yet. One item will be a small amendment to the Constitution to make recruitment of helpers more flexible. We'll send details in a later newsletter.

Farewells

Sara Worth and Derek Hughes announced at the AGM they were planning to move to Dorset and they leave on May 29th. We reach the end of a significant chapter in FrANC's history. They will be a hard act to follow: Sara as chair with the persistence and courage to fight for FrANC on all its frontiers and Derek as secretary having an enviable grasp of detail and commitment to keeping us all well informed. They leave the organisation in good health – 136 people receive our mailings, we are solvent and we have clear commitments to a range of activities each year. The completion of the fencing of Butterfly Junction was a fitting project on which to bring their stewardship to a close. We offered our thanks and best wishes for their new life in Dorset at a sumptuous sending-off party at Harry's café after the April clean-up.

PHOTO