

## A Green Lung in the Centre of Bristol

The undisturbed banks of the New Cut are host to a wonderful wildlife habitat. Rich in flora and fauna, there are over a hundred species of flowering plants including the rare ivy broomrape, featured in FrANC's logo.



More than 30 species of trees can be seen, including one or two fig trees which are believed to have grown from fruits discarded by passing sailors in times gone by. Over 30 species of birds have been spotted along the New Cut, including the grey heron and the cormorant. Butterfly Junction, located on an abandoned industrial site near the CREATE Centre, provides an important habitat for moths and butterflies.



## Publications

*A Celebration of the Avon New Cut*, a book produced by local people (published by Fiducia Press), provides a fascinating account of the New Cut's history, geology, wildlife and ideas about its future. It contains an excellent collection of old and new photographs, maps and illustrations. For copies (£7.00 each), email [contact@franc.org.uk](mailto:contact@franc.org.uk).

In addition, the following leaflets can be downloaded from the FrANC website:

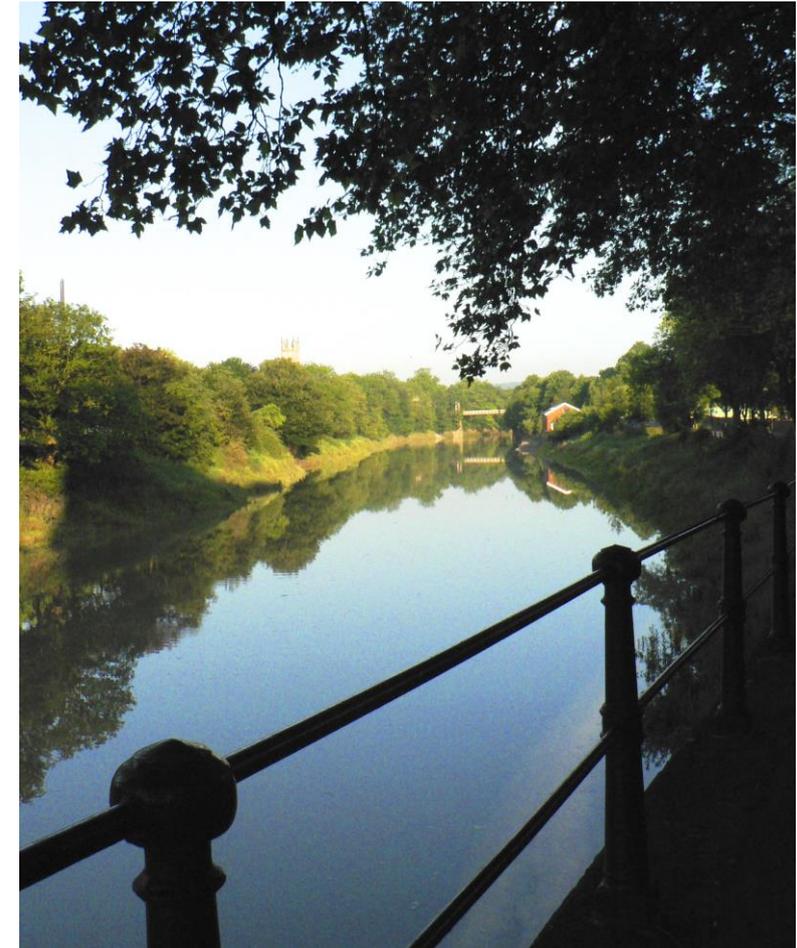
- *Discovering Wildlife on the Avon New Cut*
- *Butterfly Junction*
- *Circular Walks around the Avon New Cut*
- *Avon New Cut Treasure Hunt*
- *Visit Bristol's Local Nature Reserves*

Printed copies of some of the leaflets can be found at the Southville Centre, Bristol Tourist Information Centre and the Underfall Yard Visitor Centre.

## Join us!

Membership of FrANC is free. If you would like to find out more, or to get involved, visit our website at [www.franc.org.uk](http://www.franc.org.uk) or email [contact@franc.org.uk](mailto:contact@franc.org.uk).

# Friends of the Avon New Cut



Issue 2 (October 2016)



## The Avon New Cut

is a tidal waterway in Bristol which runs from near Temple Meads station to the Cumberland Basin. It was excavated between 1804 and 1809 to act as a tidal by-pass in order to create Bristol's Floating Harbour. New industries grew along its banks and passenger boats used the New Cut until the late 1930s.

Today, the New Cut remains vitally important to the function of the city and forms part of Bristol's flood defences. With a tidal range of up to 11 metres it provides a constantly changing vista.



## Friends of the Avon New Cut

or FrANC, as it is more commonly known, is a community group formed in 2006 to preserve, enhance and improve the New Cut as a valuable watercourse for the benefit of people and wildlife.



Working with Bristol City Council and others, FrANC offers its members the opportunity to take part in:

- Walks and talks highlighting the wildlife, geology and industrial and economic history of the area
- Meadow Management of Butterfly Junction
- Riverbank clean-up sessions
- Enhancing the environment around the New Cut through the provision of Interpretation Boards, benches and refuse bins
- Fundraising to enable FrANC to further develop its activities
- Activities with other local groups to further improve Bristol and its surrounding area.

## Other Activities

FrANC continues to be a key player in several larger projects:

- An arts project helped young people to produce 200 clay tiles using mud from the New Cut, decorated with images of the wildlife found along the riverbank. The tiles were first displayed on Vauxhall Bridge but now have a permanent home on the wall outside the CREATE Centre café.
- FrANC celebrated the 200th anniversary of the opening of the New Cut. Dancing, music, a hog roast and fine beer were the order of the day - replicating what is reported to have happened in 1809. A video of this event can be viewed on the FrANC website - [www.franc.org.uk](http://www.franc.org.uk).
- In 2015 the Avon New Cut was designated as a Local Nature Reserve, in no small part due to the diligence of FrANC members in maintaining the riverbanks. FrANC also contributed to a Management Plan which sets out how the New Cut will be maintained in future in collaboration with other agencies. A copy of the Management Plan is also posted on the website.
- In the autumn of 2015 FrANC was awarded a *Sharing Heritage* grant through the Heritage Lottery Fund. This enabled the clearance of a further stretch of the riverbank along York Road as well as the installation of additional Interpretation Boards and benches.

FrANC also publishes regular Newsletters to keep members informed of activities, events and other items of interest.