

# **FrANC Annual General Meeting 2023**

## **MINUTES**

**Held on Saturday 16 December 2023 5pm**

**Nova Scotia Function Room, 1 Nova Scotia Place, Bristol, BS1 6XJ**

**1. Welcome from Andrew:** We introduced ourselves. In attendance were Andrew Jenkins (Chair), Guy Malkerson (Secretary), Laura Demery (Treasurer), Bridget Everett (Committee Member), Roy Gallop (Committee Member), Tess Green (Committee Member), Heather Anne, Christine Cox, David Demery, Steven Mason, Elizabeth Payze, Sarah Townsend, Stephen Wickham.

Then Andrew laid out the agenda for the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Elaine Beckett, Pat Fung, Jacqui Furneaux, Ed Hall, Chris Hanmer, Philip Morris, Anthony O'Neil, Cynthia Page, Lizzi Testani, Philip Cass

**3. Minutes of the last AGM** (approval and matters arising)

We reviewed the minutes of the last AGM and discussed these main points:

- We have secured storage for the Butterfly Junction tools at Baltic Wharf.
- The signs project is still ongoing
- Litter picks are continuing. Going forward we will work with Steven Mason to advertise in the South Bristol Voice and Pigeon.
- Lizzi stepping in as chair when Tim left and before Andrew took up the post was an immense help
- We continued community gardening sessions at Butterfly Junction steadfastly through all weather conditions the first Saturday of each month starting at 11am.

The minutes were approved.

## **4. Chair's report**

Andrew delivered his report discussing the following. Here are some pertinent figures from the past year:

- 209 FrANC members
- 563 hours of volunteer activity
- 100 bags of rubbish gathered
- 7 trees planted

He thanked to Laura Demery for her work on the website and all who contributed photos and items of interest.

Some ideas for 2024 were discussed including frequency of meetings, locations of litter picks, possibilities for socials, and partnerships with like minded groups.

**Riverbank clear-ups and notable finds:** Six riverbank clear-ups were actioned through 2023. Attendance averaged twenty to thirty. We advertised by email that October to March on the second Saturday of every month litter picks would happen 10am-12pm, rain or shine, followed by trip to local cafe.

Bristol City Council are supplying some of the litter pickers and bags as well as removing full rubbish bags and collected debris. Thanks goes to Steve Clampin at Bristol City Council for his continued and important assistance.

We also discussed that we might want to organise a time to prune the trees that impede litter picking this winter.

**Butterfly Junction Community Gardening:** Thanks to Guy Malkerson and others for their hard work organising the tree planting, herb planter installation, and associated funding.

Regular sessions at Butterfly Junction happen the first Saturday of every month starting at 11am.

This year we were able to plant seven native British Cherry Trees with funding from the Tree Council and Secret Gardens. Additionally, we installed and planted two herb planters with a grant received from Wessex Water.

There was an increase in butterfly and pollinator sightings in 2023 versus 2022.

Bristol Council Tree Officer Tom Gladden has contacted us with a plan to plant four to six Ulmus 'New Horizon' elm trees in the eastern corner of Butterfly Junction. These trees have been found to support the White Letter Hairstreak butterfly with several colonies being noted in New Horizon specimens in Newport and in London. The trees are resistant to Dutch Elm disease.

Bridget and Guy will co-ordinate to try and raise the Butterfly Junction profile on Facebook in the coming year.

Butterfly Junction is mapped on Open Street Map and is a part of the Butterflies and Moths of Avon Directory guide being published by UWE and Ben Barker.

Before Metrobus there were nineteen different species of butterflies identified at Butterfly Junction. FrANC has been taking care of the space for decades.

Butterfly Junction is not a part of the Western Harbour plan. It was asked whether FrANC was connected into the council? We are but mostly through the Parks Department.

It seems like the council is encroaching on the agreed management plan for Butterfly Junction.

**ACTION** to put in a comment for the Western Harbour Plan to use our influence in these matters.

**Gaol Ferry Bridge Re-opening 8 September 2023:** The Council closed the bridge on 22 August 2022; The project replaced structural steelwork, rotten timbers and decking; repaired steel lattice work and stonework; and repainted the whole bridge. The repairs cost in the region of £1.5 million.

Five more New Cut bridges are set to be repaired over the next five years: Sparke Evans Park Footbridge, Vauxhall Footbridge, Bath Bridge (twin bridges), Bedminster Bridge (twin bridges), and Langton Street Footbridge.

It is great to see investment in this and the positive connection between the city and South Bristol.

**5. Treasurer's report** – Laura: "The financial year for these accounts runs from 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023.

We started the year with £965.63 in general funds. We didn't receive any donations or make any book sales during the year, so having spent £90.40 on hot drinks for volunteers after litter picks and £14.39 renewing our domain name for the website, we ended the year with £860.64.

We started the year with £300.06 of grant money from Secret Gardens. We then received a grant of £496.42 from the Tree Council. With these grants and some donations from members we made improvements to the Butterfly Junction area, in particular planting native cherry trees. Later in the year we received £1,250 from Wessex Water for herb planters. At the end of the year, £592.58 of this money was left to spend.

With grant money we spend this on what we said we would with the funders.

We ended the year with a grand total of £1,453.42."

The accounts were accepted.

## **6. Election of the Committee**

The members listed below are willing to stand for election or re-election.

Chair: Andrew Jenkins (co-opted in June 2023)

Vice chair: Lizzi Testani

Secretary: Guy Malkerson (co-opted in June 2023)

Treasurer: Laura Demery

General: Ed Hall, Roy Gallop, Tess Green, Bridget Everett

The members were approved en masse.

## **7. Clean up on the North Bank of the New Cut** (Suggested by Chris Hanmer)

The next pick will be on the North Side (subject to a review).

The litter picks tend to be done on general rotation. Ed Hall, usually, looks over an area first to make sure it needs attention.

#### **8. Grants to apply for** (Suggested by Chris Hanmer)

We will start thinking about what grants are available but they do need to be for specific projects.

#### **9. Thanks to our benefactors**

Philip Morris gave us a gift recently and we give our thanks to him.

Cynthia Page also gave a donation for which we are appreciative as well.

#### **10. Any other business**

We discussed advertising on social media and that we could get overwhelmed by too many people showing up.

We also discussed safeguarding and the fact that we have a safeguarding policy.

The AGM was ended and we commenced the social part of the evening.

# Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) Annual General Meeting 2023

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 5pm**

**Nova Scotia Function Room, 1 Nova Scotia Place, Bristol, BS1 6XJ**



*An opportunity to review the past year and think about what we may want to do in 2024*

**<https://franc.org.uk>**

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last AGM (approval and matters arising)
4. Chair's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of the Committee
7. Clean up on the North Bank of the New Cut
8. Grants to apply for
9. Thanks to our benefactors
10. Any other business





# Apologies and Minutes of last AGM

## Guy Malkerson - Approval and Matters Arising

- Apologies: Pat Fung, Jacqui Furneaux, Ed Hall, Chris Hanmer, Anthony O'Neil, Cynthia Page, Lizzi Testani, Phil Cass, Elaine Beckett
- We have secured storage for the Butterfly Junction tools at Baltic Wharf.
- The signs project is still ongoing
- Continuing litter picks
- Lizzi stepping in as chair when Tim left and before Andrew took up the post
- Continued community gardening sessions at Butterfly Junction



# Chair's Report

Andrew Jenkins

## Some figures for 2023

209 members

Approximately 250 hours of volunteer activity clearing rubbish

313 hours of volunteering at Butterfly Junction Community Garden

Over 100 bags of rubbish

7 trees planted at Butterfly Junction

## Website, photos and stories

Thanks to Laura for her work on the website and all who contribute photos and items of interest.

## Ideas for 2024

Frequency, locations, membership, socials, partnerships?





# Chair's Report

Andrew Jenkins

## Riverbank clear-ups and notable finds!

- Six riverbank clear-ups through 2023
- Average attendance around 20
- Advertised by email, October-March second Saturday of every month 10am-12pm, rain or shine, followed by trip to local cafe
- Bristol City Council supplying some of the litter pickers and bags as well as removing full rubbish bags and collected debris
- Thanks to Steve Clampin at Bristol City Council



# Chair's Report

Andrew Jenkins

## Butterfly Junction Community Gardening

- Thanks to Guy Malkerson and others for their hard work organising the tree planting, herb planters and associated funding.
- Regular sessions the first Saturday of every month starting at 11am.
- This year we were able to plant seven native British Cherry Trees with funding from the Tree Council and Secret Gardens. Additionally, we installed and planted two herb planters with a grant received from Wessex Water.
- Increase in butterfly and pollinator sightings in 2023 versus 2022.
- BCC Tree Officer (Tom Gladden) idea to plant 4-6 trees on eastern edge of this patch of land. Suggested Wych Elms because Dutch Elm disease has destroyed the habitat for White-Letter Hairstreak Butterflies. Also Ulmus 'New Horizon' which have been found to support these butterflies - several colonies in New Horizon specimens in Newport and in London.



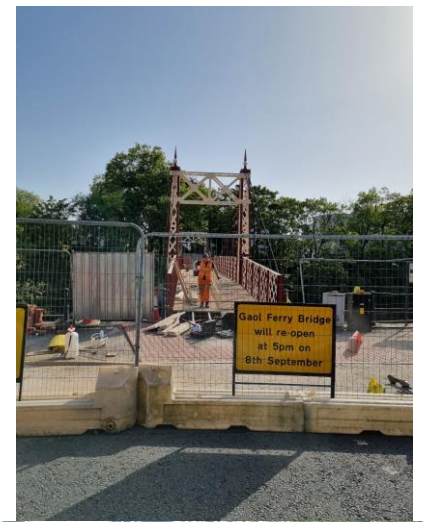


# Chair's Report

Andrew Jenkins

## Gaol Ferry Bridge Re-opening 8 September 2023

- Council closed the bridge on 22 August 2022
- Replaced structural steelwork, rotten timbers and decking
- Repaired steel lattice work and stonework
- Repainted the whole bridge
- The repairs cost in the region of £1.5 million.
- Five more New Cut bridges are set to be repaired over the next five years: Sparke Evans Park Footbridge, Vauxhall Footbridge, Bath Bridge (twin bridges), Bedminster Bridge (twin bridges), Langton Street Footbridge



# Treasurer's Report

Laura Demery

## Friends of the Avon New Cut

## Accounts for the year ending 31st October 2023

### General Receipts and Payments Account

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Receipts</b>		
Book sales	-	35.00
Donations	-	60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>95.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Litter picks	90.40	64.75
Website	14.39	-
Miscellaneous	-	27.43
Transfer to Your Park Grant	-	2.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>104.79</b>	<b>94.61</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(104.79)</b>	<b>0.39</b>

### Balance Sheet

	£
General balance brought forward	965.63
Plus Surplus / (Deficit)	(104.79)
<b>General balance at 31st October 2023</b>	<b>860.84</b>
Grants balance brought forward	300.06
Plus Secret Gardens 2 Surplus / (Deficit)	(300.06)
Plus Tree Council Surplus / (Deficit)	0.00
Plus Wessex Water Surplus / (Deficit)	592.58
<b>Grants balance at 31st October 2023</b>	<b>592.58</b>
<b>Total balance at 31st October 2023</b>	<b>1453.42</b>

### Grant Receipts and Payments Accounts

<b>Secret Gardens Grant 2</b>		
	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Receipts</b>		
Grant	-	300.00
Transfer from Secret Gardens Grant	-	0.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>300.06</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Gardening	13.72	-
Tree planting	283.34	-
Publicity	3.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>300.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(300.06)</b>	<b>300.06</b>

### Tree Council Grant

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Receipts</b>		
Grant	496.42	-
Donations	78.78	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>575.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Tree planting	575.20	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>575.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### Wessex Water Grant

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Receipts</b>		
Grant	1,250.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1250.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Herb planters	657.42	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>657.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>592.58</b>	<b>0.00</b>

# Election of the Committee

- The members listed below are willing to stand for election or re-election:
  - Chair: Andrew Jenkins (co-opted in June 2023)
  - Vice chair: Lizzi Testani
  - Secretary: Guy Malkerson (co-opted in June 2023)
  - Treasurer: Laura Demery
  - General: Ed Hall, Roy Gallop, Tess Green, Bridget Everette
- Any other volunteers?





# Other Agenda Items

- Clean up on the North Bank of the New Cut (Chris Hanmer)
- Grants to apply for (Chris Hanmer)
- Thanks to our benefactors
- Any other business



# Thank you all. Time for the social!



*Donation box available and donations will help fund future FrANC activities – Thank you!*

**Get in touch - <https://franc.org.uk>**