

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) Committee meeting Minutes

Wednesday 3 June 2026

Location: Bathurst Basin

Present: Phil Cass (apols), Sue Chubb, Matthew Feltham, Laura Demery (Treasurer), Ed Hall, Andrew Jenkins (Chair), Lizzi Testani (Vice Chair & Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies from Phil Cass.

2. Minutes of last meeting and actions arising

Approved minutes of the last meeting. Actions updated as per below.

3. Review of finances

Treasurer notes that we currently have £1,725.26 in the bank.

Upcoming expenses:

- Soil testing kit (£8) – **Action:** Sue to share receipt for reimbursement.

No current need for fundraising effort as equipment stock is sufficient for next season.

Treasurer confirmed that Triodos are not currently accepting any new accounts for charities or businesses.

4. Plans for 2026/27 activities – litter picking sessions and butterfly junction

Litterpicking sessions:

- Discussed and agreed to schedule next season's litter picks on **second Saturday of the month** once again.
- Upcoming dates are therefore – 10 October, 14 November, 12 December, 9 January, 13 February, 13 March
- Agreed to share reminder mailings with members nearer the time.

Butterfly Junction community gardening sessions:

- 2 sessions since our last FrANC committee meeting.
- **Butterfly Junction Benefit Concert** - Guy is organising a benefit concert at Butterfly Junction on Friday June 12th at 5pm as part of the Bedminster Festival of Gardening which takes place 8th-14th June immediately before and during the Secret Gardens weekend. The Red Notes Choir are going to be singing at the Concert and Guy will be doing some folk rock tunes. Poet Kathy Janes will also be performing. Roy has created a flier to advertise the concert. If it is good weather the concert will be held by the planters just opposite Butterfly Junction or if it is raining the concert will be held under the underpass. People are invited to bring camping chairs and a picnic if they wish. There will also be a display at Riverside Garden Centre during the week long 'Bedminster Festival of Gardening' 8-14 June with some photos and information about our activities at Butterfly Junction.
- **Soil Testing at Butterfly Junction** – Sue bought a soil testing kit so we could test the soil PH at Butterfly Junction, opposite the holly bushes next to the pathway, to see if the site might be suitable for planting an Alder Buckthorn tree which is an essential tree for the Brimstone butterfly. We tested the soil in April and found it is neutral PH 7 - so it should be suitable for planting an Alder Buckthorn tree.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at Butterfly Junction - We have continued our work of cutting down the brambles and bindweed and have moved off the main site to protect the meadow area. More wildflower seeds have been planted as we try and improve biodiversity on the site. We did see a flowering Snakes Head Fritillary in April, we planted a number of these bulbs in December. • Butterfly Counting We will be taking part in the Big Butterfly Count in July and August this year organised by Butterfly Conservation. They have an additional App 'iRecord Butterflies' which can be used to record butterflies at other times of the year which we can also use for any butterfly sightings. One of the volunteers is also interested in recording insects so we may be doing more readings. • Moth Counting Matthew is now trained up as a Moth recorder so we may be able to do a moth count at Butterfly Junction although it will be difficult to secure the equipment in such an open area as the light given off may attract unwanted interest. • Sensory walks Guy is looking into the possibility of conducting Sensory Walks for those with disabilities. This would be funded by Your Parks. • Community garden sessions continue 1st Saturday of the month. • Sue and Matthew are attending Lead Volunteer training on Friday 6 June at Redcatch Community Garden.
5. Plans and date for AGM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Lizzi to explore potential speaker for AGM – targeting end November and beginning of December. Suggestion to then incorporate walk around Butterfly Junction.
6. AOB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Steve has enquired whether a litter bin could be installed on or near chocolate path. FrANC to highlight with BCC during ongoing conversations about litter hotspots. • Next committee meeting: confirmed for Wednesday 16 September at 7pm at Laura's house.

ACTIONS	STATUS
Andrew re-connecting with Stuart Hatton due to fact that FrANC members regularly report large volumes of litter at South Side of Gaol Ferry Bridge. AJ to check in with SH, providing a brief update on 2025-26 season, encourage WW residents to get involved with FrANC and feedback on litter hotspots (south of Gaol Ferry) in event that SH has opportunity to influence during development / planning processes and liaison with BCC.	CLOSED Andrew contacted Steve – no response. Action closed.
Sue to discuss with Guy appetite for July Community Garden to be promoted to wider FrANC membership and confirm	CLOSED Sue to confirm with Guy whether we can share details of benefit concert on 12 June (or email WhatsApp group). Sue to offer to BS3 Wildlife Group that we can cross-promote their events. <i>Post meeting update – Sue has confirmed Guy happy to</i>

	<i>promote concert via Franc member mailing list.</i>
Phil / Andrew to note exact location and current status of Peroni Palace and alert the council. (Post-meeting note – there was some litter but significantly lower levels than usual during March’s pick).	CLOSED Andrew has alerted the council of Peroni Palace location and response is to put up signs and share information via letterboxes. Action is closed.
Phil to explore options for FrANC member ferry trip with Bristol Ferries / Bristol Packet	CLOSED Phil has confirmed that Bristol Packet are not offering such trips.
Andrew and Lizzi to distribute flyers in library and schools/nursery	CLOSED Andrew has distributed flyers. Ed to amend flyers with stickers and distribute remainder.
Laura to explore option to print labels to update contact details for FrANC on ‘Discovering Wildlife’ flyer. Committee to support with label application and distribution.	CLOSED Thank you to Laura for printing labels to cover out of date contact details on flyers.
Sue to share receipt for soil testing kit for reimbursement with Laura.	
Lizzi to explore potential speaker for AGM – end November and beginning of December and then walk around Butterfly Junction.	