

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

Wednesday 9 September 2026

Location: Bathurst Basin

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

Apologies: Ed Hall

1. Apologies for absence

- Apologies received from Ed Hall.

2. Minutes of last meeting and actions arising

- Minutes approved.
- Actions reviewed and updated as per below.

3. Review of finances

- Recent purchase of 250 spring bulbs £36.99
- Current bank balance is £1667.57
- Only expenditure expected in remaining 6 weeks of financial year is coffees for next litter pick.
- Guy is planning to apply for another Secret Garden grant

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

Litter picks:

- 1st session for 2026/27 seasons is planned for Saturday 11 Oct and going forwards scheduled for 2nd Saturday of month until March
- Suggested initial location Bedminster Bridge to include vegetation clearing
- Suggestion that Nov and Dec start from Gaol Bridge and January from Vauxhall Bridge
- Grounded has closed, ideas for alternative **Action:** Lizzi to ask Dark Horse whether they do hot drinks and would reserve space **Action:** Lizzi to share dates and confirm whether Anna would like to film a session.

Community gardening:

We have done butterfly counts in both July and August and have submitted the results to the Big Butterfly Count App, a national survey of butterflies seen during a 15 minute periods of observation.

The results were as follows:

July Count

- 2 large white
- 2 small white
- 1 marbled white
- 1 small copper
- 2 gatekeepers
- 1 red admiral

August

- 4 small whites

- 1 Holly Blue
- 1 Common Blue

A hummingbird hawk moth was also spotted at Butterfly Junction by one of our volunteers on another date in July. So hopefully some butterfly variety is returning to the junction.

Butterfly Junction and Buglife's B-Lines map

Buglife's project B-Lines records those sites around the country that are wildflower-rich areas and encourages groups and individuals to register any such existing areas and create new ones. It is hoped this will help create a known network of insect and pollinator friendly pathways that are increasingly linked up to others.

One of our volunteers has registered Butterfly Junction and it now appears as a named area on the B-Lines map.

More information at:

B-Lines: How insect pathways can ensure the survival of bees and pollinating insects - YouTube

Benefit Concert

The benefit concert Guy organised and that took place at Butterfly Junction on June 12th was a success and enjoyed by everyone who attended and we were lucky to have such good weather.

Secret Gardens application

Guy is applying to Secret Gardens this year for funds for Butterfly Junction. Possible purchases being considered so far are:

- Alder Buckthorn tree
- Hand trowels
- Hand forks
- Loppers
- Pruning Saw

Work at Butterfly Junction

As it is the summer and we stay off the main patch we have done general tidying, litter picking, pruning and clearing the walkway through to Underfall Yard, weeding the planters and trees and watering them and the holly bushes.

Butterfly Junction and BS3 Community and Wildlife Film

In our capacity as volunteers at Churchlands Community Garden I was forwarded an email from Ben Barker (Secretary of the BS3 Wildlife Group) concerning the Greater Bedminster Urban Nature Reserve.

He asked if any groups/organisations would like to contribute to a possible short film about showing the biodiversity/wildlife friendly work being undertaken in our parks, allotments, community gardens and other places across the Greater Bedminster Urban Nature Reserve. This would include some original footage, but also videos and photos that we might already have.

They had a local artist, Anna Wilson, who offered to help make a short film for this project. Anna visited our Community Garden at the end of July and filmed us there talking about community involvement and what we were doing for wildlife.

Afterwards we told her about Butterfly Junction and our activities there and consequently she came to our August session and filmed several of us talking about our work there. Butterfly Junction will appear in the film along with Churchlands Community Garden and we have seen a draft of the film and will also be submitting photos that may also be included in the final film.

5. Plans and date for AGM

- **AGM** Tentative date and time – lunchtime on Sunday 22 November, Sunday 29 November (preferred) or Sunday 6 December **Action:** Explore venue options 1) Lizzi to explore Spike Island 2) Laura try Underfall Yard 3) Explore Pump House (now Bristol Beer Factory)
- **Speaker suggestions** – Lizzi to enquire about availability of speakers - 1) Wetland project - can they show us a Wetland in a Box? 2) Avon Riversides 2100 3) Meg (who married the Avon)

6. AOB

- **Bristol Older People's Forum** would like to connect with FrANC about local nature action and engagement. They have invited a FrANC rep to a meeting on Monday 14 Sept from 12-1 at the Create Centre. None of committee can make it but are interested in supporting this work and potential collaboration, **Action:** Laura to feed that back and continue discussion about how we can connect with/ support their work.
- **FrANC photo policy** Discussion around approach to sharing photos of individuals on FrANC photo WhatsApp group **Action** Andrew to draft a group description for Franc's photos including a policy on photos of individuals. **Action** Lizzi to delete photo of individual and ensure that members are aware of the policy.
- **Next committee meeting** Wed 21 Oct to discuss AGM and AOB arising.

ACTIONS	STATUS
Sue to share receipt for soil testing kit for reimbursement with Laura.	CLOSED Complete
Lizzi to explore potential speaker for AGM – end November and beginning of December and then walk around Butterfly Junction.	CLOSED Action closed as superseded below.
Lizzi to ask Dark Horse whether they do hot drinks and would reserve space	
Lizzi to share dates and confirm whether Anna would like to film a session.	In progress
Lizzi to explore Spike Island as potential AGM venue	In progress
Lizzi – Lizzi to enquire about availability of speakers - 1) Wetland 2) Avon Riversides 2100 3) Meg (who married the Avon) - can they show us a Wetland in a Box.	In progress

Laura to feedback our interest to connect with Bristol Older People's Forum and continue discussion about how we can connect with/ support their work.	Complete
Andrew to draft a group description for Franc's photos including a policy.	Complete
Lizzi to delete photo of individual and ensure that members are aware of the policy.	In progress