



Charity Commission Registered No: 1062090

June/July 2012

go for the flow

But first don't forget two events in May:

Rodden Meadow Picnic

Sunday 20 May 3-5pm

The famous Frome Street Bandits will be bringing their colourful energy and eclectic mix of tunes to the meadow. Children will have craft activities at a small charge and we hope there will be other items of interest. Above all it is a chance to see a very pretty part of the river. Bring your own picnic, something to sit on, your friends and neighbours and possibly a gazebo.

Evening Litter Pick

Mon 21 May 7-8pm

meet in front of the Cheese and Grain

Bring gloves and suitable footwear

On 14 April ten helpers with an age range of over sixty years gathered bags of litter, and even a wooden leg (from a table). As a River Friend contribution to the Torch Event and the Frome Festival let's clear the banks again on 21 May and 7 July!

Remember our new web address or better still put it in your bookmarks.

<http://www.fromeriverfriends.org.uk>

Dates for your diary:

Litter Picks: 21 May 7-8pm and 7 July 4-5pm meet in front of the Cheese and Grain
9 June, 11 August 10.30 Meet in the foyer of the Cheese and Grain

Chairman's Chat

Well it's been a busy time for FRF. We've had a lot of good contact recently with members of the Town Council who are very supportive of our work. I gave a short talk at the recent Externals Committee meeting to raise our profile and tell them a little about our plan to apply for a grant from the national 'Catchment Restoration Fund' (see below). They are as keen as we are to improve/develop the river, particularly in the centre of town. They are in the process of developing an "Open Spaces Strategy" and the river will feature quite strongly and we will be closely involved in the future plans.

We had a meeting with Simon Woollen and Mel Usher from the Town Council regarding tidying of the river banks in the town centre and Simon responded very quickly by strimming the Chateau Gontier section owned by the council and cutting back some unsightly wild shrubs. This has made a big difference and hopefully reduce the amount of litter that gets caught up. Mendip District Council own the side adjacent to the car park and Simon has contacted them to see if clearance can be progressed there. If you have a few moments perhaps you could send an email to Mendip DC pointing out the scrubby state of the bank and asking them to do some strimming to improve our town centre. The email is customerservices@mendip.gov.uk. Nothing like a bit of local pressure!

The group is very fortunate to have some strong professional skills on the committee and our very own Bob Sargeant, who is an Water Environment specialist, is leading on an application for grant money from the 'Catchment Restoration Fund'. For more information see the Environment Agency web page at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/136182.aspx>. Our proposal is likely to include the replacement of the Welshmill weir with a more environmentally beneficial and landscaped feature to improve the river flow and the river ecology. Removal of silt along the town centre stretch will also be vital in improving water quality. We have had preliminary discussions with Frome Canoe Club as we are naturally very keen to include them in any proposed plans. With the support of the Town Council and all us residents the plans could help transform our river into the lively, attractive waterway that we and the town desire. There is a huge amount of work to be done gathering the necessary information that is needed for the initial bid proposal and we will be meeting with representatives of the Environment Agency to discuss what might be included. You never know, it might just work.....

Committee members Sally Greenhalgh and Stuart Cooper are already gearing up for more spraying of Japanese Knotweed this year to keep this rampant menace at bay. Do let us know if you see any signs of this incredibly invasive weed.

And of course the dearly loved litter picks continue throughout the year thanks to Dorothy-Anne's organisation and they do make a big difference! Do come and join our happy band of pickers....

See you at the Rodden Meadow picnic!

Nick