



Charity Commission Registered No: 1062090

Winter 2012

Greetings River Friends.

go for the flow

As I write, Bob Sargent is beavering away putting the River Strategy report together for Frome Town Council. Bob, Sally, Sue, Mike, Dorothy Anne and I have all been involved in walking the river and discussing the possibilities for improvement which will hopefully provide a blueprint for the future of the town's river. The report needs to be completed by the end of October (fast approaching) but we are confident it will be delivered on time (pew!). We hope our proposals for improving the river corridor will be viewed positively by the council. We'll let you know how it goes.

Dorothy Anne led an intrepid band of volunteers in a couple of forays into Himalayan Balsam territory. Pulling this invasive weed is very easy and quite therapeutic. Just a pity they have such pretty pink flowers..... But we have to harden our hearts and keep pulling otherwise it will take over the world!! (Make 2013 the year of the bash? ed)

Another fun activity was undertaken by Alan and myself in August. Both he and I had caught sight of a couple of old shopping trolleys that had found their way to the base of Welshmill weir and we both found we had a similar obsession with getting them out. So a trailer was borrowed from a friend, although it was a bit oversized (or so I thought), and one morning he and I donned our waders to have a go. It was really very satisfying and good fun to grapple them out onto the bank. Eventually we had hauled six trolleys out and then another three more recent ones from Willow Vale and in the end the trailer was full, including a few random bits of debris. The guys at the waste recycling very kindly accepted them without charge, so a good day was had by all.

We've recently been contacted by the new "Catchment Co-ordinator" for this area, Julia Dimbleby. She is funded by Natural England and she and her colleagues will initially be undertaking a catchment review (location of sensitive waters, slopes, rainfall, nitrate & phosphate levels etc). Following that they will develop a catchment delivery plan involving one-to-one visits with farmers, workshops, farm advice clinics etc on a range of topics dependant on what the catchment appraisal highlights and where these problems are located. Which all sounds really good and Bob has volunteered to attend a steering group she is developing.

WANTED! - someone to take minutes at our committee meetings. Sally has worn her poor fingers to the bone so we would like to invite someone to take over this vital admin job. The lucky person won't need to be involved in the committee stuff themselves, although if you are interested in the group this might be a good way of finding out what really goes on at our meetings. If you can take summary notes (nothing fancy, main points and actions etc) and are able to type them up on a computer then we'd be very grateful for your help. Meetings are about

every 6 weeks so it's not too onerous, but we do need them completed soon after each meeting. Tea or coffee provided free of charge! If you think you could help us out then please email me for more info.

Clearly things are definitely buzzing when it comes to improving our environment because we were also contacted by the Development Officer for Selwood Living Landscape, Sara Hobbs. To quote Sarah:

"Living Landscapes are projects being developed by Wildlife Trusts across the country and are based on the ethos of creating 'Bigger, better and more joined up' habitats and to create more resilient networks for wildlife, which is a shift from concentrating on just protecting wildlife in isolated reserves. That's not to say that the reserves aren't also really important though! There are over 100 Living Landscape initiatives across the county, and lots of other wildlife conservation work being done by other organisations and partnerships that have the same landscape level approach. In this area of the county, we have a very strong focus on developing a community based programme, in recognition of the importance of local people on how landscapes are valued and therefore protected. Selwood covers quite a large area, running from Frome to Wincanton, and is named after the ancient hunting forest, which would of course have covered a much larger area in times gone by."

She is keen to make contact with all interested groups and individuals and recently came and gave the committee an update on her work and goals. This is a very interesting project and we are very pleased that she has agreed to give the 'keynote' talk at our next AGM.

The Phase 1 improvements to Welshmill play park by local group FROGS have now been completed and the official opening day in September was lovely. With the stunning popularity of the fabulous cycle pump track for youngsters of all ages, FROGS can be rightly proud of their efforts to bring more life to the park and the river. Friends of the River Frome donated £250 to this worthwhile project.

Autumn is here and Winter will follow in the natural cycle of activity and rest that life takes. We hope you all have an enjoyable rest over the Christmas and New Year holidays. We look forward to meeting you all at the AGM in January (date to be decided) before we start a new year of activities with (hopefully) renewed vigour! With all the interesting stuff going on for Frome River and the wider environment, 2013 looks like it could be an exciting year.

Keep picking that litter!

Very best wishes
Nick and the committee team.

Work-party: 10 November, meeting in the foyer of the Cheese and Grain at 10.20am. Please join us with gloves and suitable footwear for slopes.

Another interesting event. A Health Walk along the River Frome led by one of our members

Date & Time	Meeting Point	Route details	Leader
Fri 23 rd Nov, 10:15am for 10:30 start	Meet near the Memorial Hall, Rode, nr Frome.	Rode via Tellisford. Field paths, some stiles. 3 ½ miles	Alan