



Charity Commission Registered No: 1062090

Spring 2013

**go for the flow**

FRF has a Twitter account

- @forfrome – which has 27 followers to date. There is a link to it on the web-site

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

*Report on the AGM below or overleaf*

**Stop Press: River Friends are invited to support the Millenium Green Workday on Sunday 24th February 10.30am onwards for a couple of hours. Wear old clothes, sturdy footwear & bring a flask...Sue Bucklow will provide biscuits!**

**River Friends and Hope Frome**

# Grand Litter Pick

**Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 prompt**

**Choose your venue -  
meet a co-ordinator at one of them**

Old Market Yard (Frome Canoe Club),  
St John's Road (Convenience Store)

The Mount (Community Garden),  
Stonebridge (Tesco),

**Bring gloves and suitable footwear**

**Refreshments at Canoe Club afterwards**

**Further dates for your 2013 diary:**

11 May	10.30	Litter Pick - meet in the foyer of the Cheese and Grain
19 May	Daytime	FROGS Welshmill Event
10 March	10.30	on FromeFM (96.6) Dorothy-Anne meanders along the river with Mark Vose from the Missing Link.
Balsam Bashes -	Every Thursday from 20 June until 26 September	Saturday 10 August and 7 September

**PTO for report on AGM**

## **Summary of Nick's report from the chair:**

This has been an exciting year, with plenty of activity, and this is a great time to be involved with FRF. Big thanks are due to the committee, and we welcome Sue Everett as a co-opted member. The committee meets every six weeks.

Paid-up membership of the group is about 40 people.

The major effort of the year was the creation of the River Frome Strategic Review, completed on behalf of Frome Town Council. This was the result of a small team, with Bob Sargent and Mike Bull contributing their professional skills to the project. The project has been an excellent example of collaboration between many groups in and around Frome: FROGS; Missing Link; FTC; Mendip Power Group; Sustainable Frome; town and district councillors; Civic Society; Frome Canoe Club. Notable events of the year include: the Rodden Meadow picnic in May (about 100 attended); talks by FRF members to Rotary Club and Selwood First School; taking part in the Volunteer Fair and the Frome Festival Green Fair; a visit from Sarah Hobbs (formerly of the Somerset Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes project, and now at Frome Town Council); and the steady graft of litter picks and balsam bashes. One member of our committee is qualified to spray Japanese Knotweed within close proximity to watercourses, and he undertakes this work for FRF.

We have been approached by DEFRA to take part in their Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative: Bob Sargent has taken on this work, whose purpose is to encourage river-friendly farming practices, on the Upper Frome catchment area.

As part of the Strategic Review we have been assembling a database of riparian ownership: this has been shared with the Sustrans Frome Missing Link team.

The future looks bright for some real action on the river. Thank you all who love the river and support River Friends.

## **Summary of Bob's introduction to the River Frome Strategic Review.**

Bob Sargent introduced the review to the meeting. The review had been commissioned by Frome Town Council to provide a way forward in developing the river into an attractive asset for the town, within the town limits.

The report is a list of projects, varying from the minor (short lengths of surfaced footway) to the major (re-engineering the Feltham Water meadows). FTC has adopted the final report in full, and categorised the projects roughly:

- 1) Small projects, within the Council's competence to fund, which will be funded when the money is available.
- 2) Larger projects that will require external funding (district/county or other) where the fund-raising will be put in motion immediately
- 3) The biggest of the projects, e.g. Feltham meadows, which will become part of the planning requirement for future developers.

**Q:** With regard to the low-level riverside paths envisaged in the review, what will happen to the silt inevitably left behind after periods of high water level?

**A:** The walkways will be above the once-a-year levels: they will be provided with slip-resistant surfaces, and there must be a maintenance regime in place to deal with residual silt.

**Comment by Frome Canoe Club:** One of the four proposals (dropping the weir head) for treating the Welshmill Weir would render the river unusable within the town limits.

**Response:** It was extremely unlikely that FTC (or the DoE) would accept this proposal.

**FCC:** Also, planting at Market Yard bend would seriously affect the width of the watercourse, making it much less useful for canoeists.

**Response:** FCC would be consulted before any part of the plan were implemented.