

Friends of the River Frome



Newsletter June 2013

www.fromeriverfriends.org.uk



Himalayan Balsam and you

Friends of the River Frome have had some success over the last three years in tackling that attractive but invasive weed Himalayan balsam within urban Frome. In 2013 we would like to involve as many groups and individuals as possible in recognising it and pulling it up. With their help we aim to be effective from Spring Gardens to Blatchbridge and to make forays upstream tributary by tributary.

Pulling up balsam is an enjoyable and useful summer activity in the open air with like-minded people. There is even a Balsam Event in the Frome Festival.

We have invited knowledgeable and active people to form a steering group. They and others will prepare to lead groups along the river. Several of us have already done first-aid training.

On Thursday 20 June we will start from the foyer of the Cheese and Grain and from then on every Thursday morning until 26 September there will be work parties from 1030 – 1200 at various locations. Extra events will be organised as the opportunities arise.

On 18 July from 1000 – 1500 there will be a major day based at the Key Centre, Feltham Lane. Other major events will be on Saturdays 10 August and 7 September.

In September we will be working carefully to avoid the spread of seeds. As the bird nesting season comes to an end we could use scythes or even strimmers. River Friends have extended their insurance to cover everyone working in a group under their leadership.

Thanks to all of you who have already signed up to be informed of the extra events. If you would like to make absolutely sure your name is on the list please feel free to contact us again. All new volunteers are very welcome.

Keep an eye on the web-site www.fromeriverfriends.org.uk for the news as it happens.

Litter picks

We will pick litter as well as Himalayan balsam as we walk lengths of the river this summer as our official River Friend contribution to “Keep Frome Clean” this summer.

First Aid course

Eight of us attended a basic First Aid course with St John’s Ambulance for the group to ensure we have suitable skills when working on river projects.

River Walks

Dorothy-Anne will be leading some Mendip Health Walks, meeting outside Frome Medical Centre for an interesting and friendly hour or so. We will usually visit the river!

Dates are June 5^h, 12th and 19th. All 10.15am

A leaflet about these and many other walks can be picked up in the Library.



FromeFM have a useful web-site

It is now possible to go straight to Dorothy-Anne Bryant chatting at the riverside! The most recent, with the chair, Nick Ray, is:

<http://fromefm.co.uk/archive/meandering/130525-meandering-meandering.mp3>

This programme, meandering with Bob Sargent last Autumn, includes some of the thinking behind the strategic review.

<http://fromefm.co.uk/archive/meandering/120916-rivermeandering-rivermeandering.mp3>

and news from our web-site

Wildlife Event at Welshmill

On Sunday 19 May Welshmill Greenway buzzed with happy visitors for the FROGS event. River Friends had a stall to inform people about the River Strategy and the Balsam bashing. For more information go to www.fromefrogs.co.uk

Five organisations tackle litter on the morning of 11 May

The Town Council, Westway traders, River Friends, Christians, and Macdonalds all worked to clean up Frome this morning. We reached from the playpark at Singers Knoll to the bottom of the river at Welshmill and along the river from Wallbridge to Weylands.

Goosanders raise a family in Rode

We were told on 11 May that six ducklings have been seen with the Goosander pair in Rode. This is a first for this area.