

Friends of the River Frome



## Newsletter October 2014

[www.fromeriverfriends.org.uk](http://www.fromeriverfriends.org.uk)

Hello to all River Friends.

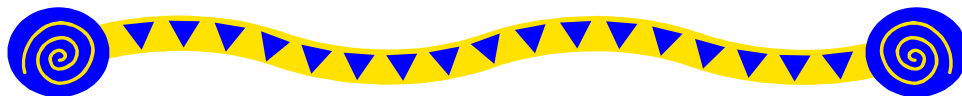
Some late autumn sunshine is streaming in the window as I write this newsletter. It's such a lovely time of year to get out in the fresh air and enjoy our green, orange and brown pleasant land. The group continues its activities in a more low-key way after the busy summer of Balsam bashing (see Dorothy Anne's report below).

The Henley Way path project is taking shape and it's great to see one of the proposals from our Strategic Report for the Town Council coming to fruition. An exciting time!

The committee has been discussing plans for the Annual General Meeting in January next year which we hope to make 'a bit of a do' by publicising the talk more widely and keeping the AGM 'business' to a minimum. See the details below and put the date in your diaries. Come and show your support for all of our efforts!

You may have seen the splendid full page article about the group in the Frome Standard recently. We are indebted to reporter Caroline Wood for initiating it and meeting members to get the facts and photos right.

And do try and get out and enjoy the season's riches of changing colours so easily available along the river....  
Nick. [nickray51@gmail.com](mailto:nickray51@gmail.com) 01373 471687

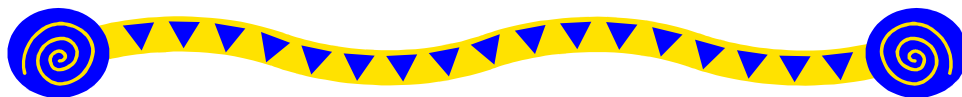


**Talk by local environmentalist  
Sue Everett**

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**A summary of River Friends work during 2014**

**AGM Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 7:30pm**  
At the Canoe Club, Market Yard car park, Frome  
All welcome.



### ***The Henley Way path***

Mike Bull and Bob Sargent have been working extremely hard over this year to bring plans to fruition for creating a new river path from Henley Way opposite the Market Yard carpark, to Welshmill bridge. Frome Town Council have provided money to make it happen and we are pleased to report that work has begun!

The Town Council have contracted a local business, 'Mindset', to build the path and ramp. The company trains unemployed people in different aspects of grounds work such as planning and project skills, health and safety, tree work etc, providing useful work experience and opportunities for NVQ qualifications. They will be building some benches for the public and clearing a couple of places along the bank to open up more sight of the river.

Another part of the project is to make something of the rough ground alongside the path beyond the allotments and a team from local training company Edventure are developing proposals to make a welcoming public green space there. This work will begin soon and volunteers would be very welcome to help. Contact Nick [nickray51@gmail.com](mailto:nickray51@gmail.com) with offers.

One slight fly in the ointment is that after a number of meetings with Network Rail going back to 2013 and amending our plans to meet their requirements, we are still awaiting formal approval from them to take the path under their railway bridge. We have now had a meeting with local MP David Heath in which he expressed his support for the group's work and agreed to write to Network Rail in the hope of resolving the delay. Let's hope the issue is sorted out quickly.

### ***Cleanup Work and litter picks***

Frome Town Council asked for our help in clearing litter from the river banks in the town centre. Their grounds maintenance team had done a great job of strimming the brambles and weeds which will help more attractive native plants establish themselves for next year. However, this revealed a layer of unsightly litter that had built up since our last pick earlier in the year and an emergency call was sent out at short notice for volunteers. A dozen willing souls responded to the call and a couple of hours of diligent work soon had the banks looking pristine (for a little while anyway).

On another occasion waders were donned by volunteers to tackle a build-up of debris from Welshmill Weir and a large amount of wood, plastic bottles and random stuff was cleared.

### ***Review of Balsam work during the year***

Some 200 hours of volunteer work was completed during the year in pulling up the invasive weed Himalayan Balsam. After the previous years 'Big Bash' it was heartening to see much reduced evidence in places that had been cleared. Much sterling work was done by teams lead by hero member Judy Hosegood upstream working from Witham Friary and other teams led by project coordinator and powerhouse extraordinaire Dorothy-Anne Bryant macking satisfying in-roads into large swathes particularly between The Retreat and Adderwell.

Staff from the Coop Travel Agents worked long and hard one morning at Blatchbridge and our Frome Festival event volunteers cleared most plants around the nature area at Wallbridge pedestrian bridge.

Aster Housing Association gave us a grant for insurance, equipment and a base for involving the Frome Job Club members which enabled the riverside to be cleared near the Mount.

A fuller report will be given by Dorothy-Anne at the AGM in January.

### ***F.R.O.G.S request for volunteers***

Help will be needed to run children's activities under the Children's Festival auspices at the Chocolate Festival on Sunday 23 November 10 to 4pm at the Cheese & Grain. Plus help needed for a Christmas Party on Sunday 14 December, 10 to 2pm at the Cheese & Grain. There will be crafts, music and stories, Santa's grotto and food, again with the Children's Festival. Please contact Sue Willis [sue@fromechildrensfestival.org](mailto:sue@fromechildrensfestival.org) if you can help at either of these 2 events.



If you would like to be removed from our mailing list or membership please let Andrew know by email or letter. Many thanks

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