



## Friends of the River Frome Newsletter March 2016

Greetings to all River Frome friends.

Spring is definitely sprung and over the next few months there's plenty going on along the river for you to support and pitch in.

River habitat work, riverfly monitoring, litter picking are all happening soon. Hopefully something will wet (pun intended) your appetite to get involved. It's also that time of year when we ask for a small annual donation to cover the charity's basic costs so don't forget to download and complete the [membership form!](#)

Many thanks for your continuing interest and support in helping keep the River Frome luvverly!

### **'CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN!' - Sat March 5th**

We'll be litter picking around the Cattle Market Yard from 10am outside the Canoe Club as part of the nationwide clean-up ahead of the Queen's 90th birthday. Come and join us and show her you care! Gloves and sturdy footwear recommended. See national publicity here:- <http://www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk/home/>

### **LITTER PICKS - Apr-Nov 1st Monday of the month 4-5pm**

#### **Cheese & Grain**

Join our happy band of regulars in tidying the banks and paths around the Cattle Market, Welshmill river paths and the Blue House cut. Gloves and sturdy footwear are useful, we have some gloves you can borrow. Pickers and bags supplied. Meet by the Canoe Club. If you can't make these days we'd be interested to hear your preferred days/times as we sometimes do ad-hoc sessions. Do let us know what might suit you. [See contact below.](#)

### **FISH HABITAT WORK - w/c March 14th & 21st**

We will need volunteer 'labourers' (of any ability) to work on this exciting habitat project and help make the grant money go further.

Two sites, one at Rodden Meadow and one at Weylands on weekdays and both Saturdays. This project is sponsored by the Environment Agency to improve fish habitat and encourage a greater public interest in fishing. Let us know if you are interested. [See contact below.](#)

### **RIVERFLY MONITORING - Training session March 19th**

There are one or two places still available if you would like to help monitor the health of the River Frome. See further info about the training on the Bristol Avon website

here: [http://www.bristolavonrivertrust.org/what-we-do/riverfly\\_monitoring/](http://www.bristolavonrivertrust.org/what-we-do/riverfly_monitoring/) Sue Everett will be providing local support for the monitoring team so contact Sue if you are interested 01373 472656 or [valuingbiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:valuingbiodiversity@gmail.com).

There is also a Riverfly Conference in Calne, Wiltshire hosted by Bristol Avon Rivers Trust. This conference will present the opportunity to hear about the future of Riverfly monitoring, to discuss current progress and to learn more about how habitat diversity affects invertebrate populations. Speakers including the Environment Agency, Riverfly Partnership, Severn Rivers Trust and University of the West of England. Tickets and more info available here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bart-riverfly-conference-2016-tickets-20034345266>.

### **'LOVE YOUR RIVER' DAY IS A BIG SUCCESS!**

Held on Saturday 13th February a good time was had by all despite the 'bismal weather. Lots of people came to have a look. Read about it here: <http://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/lots-of-love-for-fromes-love-your-river-day/>

### **'THE OTHERSIDE' - a Pocket Park project**

Frome Recreation and Open Grounds Supporters (FROGS), another wonderful local 'green' community group have been successful in getting a £4000 grant from the government Pocket Park fund. The idea is to work in partnership with a number of community groups Edventure, Incredible Edible Frome, Community Gardens and Frome Town Council to develop the riverside area along the path and the Roundhouse and make it an even more welcoming public space. Draft plans are being drawn up and the public will be consulted soon.

### **Our AGM in February**

Our AGM on February 9th was well-attended by existing and new supporters, very encouraging! Chairman Nick gave a glowing summary of the group's fantastic work over the past year. The current committee minus Dorothy-Anne were unanimously re-elected. Nick presented Dorothy-Anne with a bouquet of flowers as a token of our love and gratitude for her huge efforts in supporting the group and improving the river environment. We will miss her 'Balsam Bashes'! Chris Stringer, FTC Environment Manager, gave an engaging and informative talk about the trials, tribulations and triumphs of managing Frome's parks and green spaces which was much appreciated.

Subsequent to the meeting Tony House volunteered to join the committee. Locally known as 'The Otter Man' due to his special interest, he is a keen naturalist who's knowledge of the river environment will benefit River Friends. Thanks Tony.

### **Annual Membership subscription renewal**

We encourage all those who support River Friend's aims to donate £10 per year to cover our basic running costs. This money goes primarily to pay for our third-party liability insurance, repair/replacement of tools and waders and admin costs for publicity and the website. Please complete the membership form below and send it to our treasurer Andrew Bryant whose details are on the form. He will be happy to receive cheques, bank transfers and even cash(!). If you've paid since Jan 1st then please ignore this plea!

[Download the form](#) (335k .PDF file)

**Our aim is to ensure that The River Frome corridor  
is respected, protected, enhanced and enjoyed.  
We really hope you think the group does a good job.  
Irrespective of whether you join or not,  
we value your interest and support. THANK YOU!**

=====  
<<<<< Contact Nick by Phone: 01373 471687 >>>>>  
or Email: nickray51@gmail.com

---