

Friends of the River Frome

Newsletter Oct 2016

Greetings to all River Frome friends.

With autumn upon us our activities start to draw to a close for the winter but here are a few bits of information that you may find interesting and one or two opportunities to get involved.

Happy Autumn!

LITTER PICK - Monday 7th Nov 4-5pm Cheese & Grain

A last chance to 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.](#)

WELSHMILL WEIR CLEAR-UP - Volunteers required

The weir has been looking quite a mess over the summer and we had hoped to do a clear-up but we just didn't get it organised. Although the recent rains have washed away the rubbish, there is still a fair amount of wood debris which would be good to pull out. FTC Rangers are happy to cart it away once it's on the banks.

We are naturally mindful of not working after heavy rains so if you are able to turn up with only a few days notice then please contact Nick. If you fancy being 'Weir Monitor' (very prestigious!) for future clean-ups we'd love to hear from you!

THE ROLE OF COMMITTEE CHAIR - A chance to step up!

At our last committee meeting we had a useful discussion about re-organising the various jobs that the committee need to do. With this restructuring of roles (Aaargh so very corporate!) our current chair Nick will be stepping down at the next **AGM in February** and we need someone to step up and take his place. Nick will continue on the committee (assuming election) and you'll have plenty of support. If you want to help River Friends keep up the good work and think you could offer some time to guide our meetings and keep us in order then we would be delighted to hear from you. Give Nick a call for more info.

FISH HABITAT WORK - more to come!

The original project was successfully completed during the spring, a series of man-made 'berms' (artificial banks) were constructed to encourage changes in the water flow at Rodden Meadow and Weylands. They provide a more varied habitat for fish development. Last month Mike (project leader Wild Trout Trust) and Frome Town Council Rangers finished the project by creating some timber steps down to the water's edge near the benches at Rodden Meadow.

The project was completed under budget and there is a bit left for some further improvements next spring. Thanks to the Environment Agency for providing the funds.



FISH HABITAT MAINTENANCE

With the new habitat 'berms' in place, the pruning of new willow growth is useful to continue establishing the berms and increasing the development of the habitat. If you fancy an annual bit of wading with some shears then let us know.

OUR VOLUNTEERS HAD A BASH!

Our Judy led volunteers on a number of forays to the upper reaches of the river during the summer. Much Himalayan Balsam was bashed and much satisfaction was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Judy and all our wonderful volunteers!

INTERESTED IN COPPICING? - Saturday Oct 29th

To celebrate National Coppicing Day, **Somerset Wildlife Trust** will be hosting a coppicing workshop at Asham Wood, Mendip's largest and most bio diverse ancient semi-natural woodland, with support from the owners of the site.

Training will be provided in coppicing techniques, grading materials and we will also look at coppicing products and crafts. The day will be led by a professional woodsman and experienced teacher, Tim Gatfield, who runs the Cherrywood project near Bath. If you own some woodland, know someone who does, or might be interested in joining in on a coppicing volunteer day with SWT, come out to the woods and brush up on your skills in this ancient technique.

Its a free event but booking is essential. To book a place please email Lila lila.morris@somersetwildlife.org or phone 01823 652474

**Our aim is to ensure that The River Frome corridor
is respected, protected, enhanced and enjoyed.**

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