

Newsletter May/June 2017

Litterpick

The next town centre litterpick is on **Saturday 6th May**, to get the place clean and tidy before visitors flock to the Independent market this weekend. We meet at **10am** near the **entrance to the Cheese and Grain** (find us by our flag shown on the right). We hope to wind up proceedings at around noon.

Please wear boots or robust shoes, clothing that you don't mind getting a bit muddy or caught on brambles, and if possible some tough gloves. We provide everything else.

(There will be another litter pick on 3rd June. This one got left off the list in the last newsletter.)

MAYhem in the Meadow

Rodden Meadow, Monday 1st May, from 11am to 2pm. Fun and games including tug of war, walking football, speedminton, rounders, community games, cardboard city, smoothie bike, bracelets and seeds.

Millennium Green

While we are in this part of town, FTC are also in discussions with MDC and The Millennium Green trust to take over primary responsibility for the green. This would allow a more integrated maintenance approach between the Green and Rodden Meadow.

F.R.O.G.S. News

Within the next couple of months there are three F.R.O.G.S wildlife walks:

Saturday 6th May, 9am: Birds, with Dan Lupton

Sunday 18th June, 3pm: Butterflies and Moths at East Woodlands

Saturday 1st July, 3pm: Wild Flowers, with Veryan Conn.

To book for these, and for info on all other F.R.O.G.S. events see their website www.fromefrogs.org.uk, or ring 01373 473909.

Mink

There have been sightings at Iron Mill Bridge (on the Trudoxhill – Gare Hill Road) and at Iron Mill, Oldford. They are sleek, black, smaller than an otter, and not at all welcome on our river system.

If you see one, please report it to Improve the Somerset Frome (improvethesomersetfrome@gmail.com).

(Picture from <http://wildlifeanimalz.blogspot.co.uk>)



American mink

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust Diffuse Pollution project.

This is a big project to track down the sources of the muddy pollution in the upper stretch of the Frome. The fieldwork has been done, and we await the final report. There is a very informative update on the BART website: <http://www.bristolavonrivertrust.org/somerset-frome-sediment-pathways-project-update>

We hope more funding will become available, to allow work with the farming community to address problems of excessive nutrient use and run-off within the catchment area.

Last year's slurry spill and fish kill.

There is no news yet on the details of the incident that happened last spring. Members of the committee however remain concerned at reports of repeated instances of agricultural slurry-spreading near the river, and spreading at inappropriate times of the year.

Welshmill Weir and Leonard's Weir.

Mike Blackmore of the Wild Trout Trust has completed a report commissioned by the Environment Agency, and funded by the Somerset Rivers Authority, into how these two weirs could be modified to enable fish passage and reduce the potential for flooding upstream. Such changes obviously have to be discussed with Frome Canoe Club, because they are important users of the river.

The report has been submitted to the EA, and we await their feedback. Any work will be subject to funding availability.

And Finally,

Mike Blackmore and Sue Everett have been looking at a parcel of land adjacent to the river which is causing great concern due to run-off, and bank damage from grazing livestock. **ALSO** they have had a first look at the watercourse through the Dippy, which at times resembles an open sewer. The oil slick (see below) has been reported to the EA both by Chris Stringer of FDC on Wednesday and by Sue on Friday. More to come.

Some dates for 2017

Litter Picks

This year we will be carrying out our litter picks on the Saturday before the Independent Market each month:

6th May

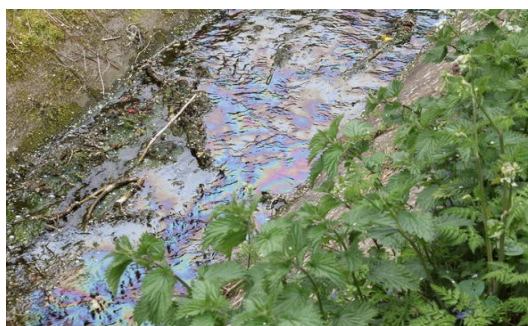
3rd June

1st July

5th August

2nd and 30th September

4th November



Oil Slick: would you dip in the Dippy?



Sue and Mike on location

Newsletter deadlines.

19th June, for publication last week in June

25th August, for publication last week in August