

Newsletter July/August 2017

Litterpick

The next town centre litterpick is on **Saturday 1st July**, to get the place clean and tidy before the Independent market and, of course the Festival. 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.

This time we plan to clean up the Blue House Cut, so would those who have waders or wellies please bring them. As well as some tasty bits of junk, there are a few balsam plants for us to deal with.

Otherwise 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.

River Walk

Do join in the Frome Festival River Friend event.

Date: Thursday 13 July 10:30 – 12:30

Event Code: 1303

Location: Cheese & Grain - Market Yard

Price: FREE

Description: River Friends invite you to join them on a walk of Frome's amazing riverside parks. We will investigate the first part of the Missing Link, return on The Other Side and then explore Rodden Meadow. You can see the recent re-wilding while looking out for invasive weeds and interesting wildlife. Please wear comfortable/weatherproof clothes and appropriate footwear. Bring a water bottle. If you wish to pull balsam wear long sleeves and gloves. Children are the responsibility of the adults who bring them.

In past years we have made our walkers work at pulling balsam but this year we are concentrating on exploration. Members of River Friends are particularly needed to welcome our guests to the river, as well as for their own enjoyment and interest.

A similar but easier walk is event 1002 on Monday 10 July, 10.15 am from the Cheese and Grain.

River Commentary, by Tony House



Where have all the Dippers gone down through Vallis to Hapsford? I know of two nesting sites and neither are being used on six visits recently: No signs of the bird, and little sign of their bright white poo.

Hog Weed Yes, but no Dippers.

An otter is another matter. If entering Vallis by the Webbs Hill carpark, directly opposite the yellow stile/barrier is a large stone on the opposite bank. This is a prime otter sprainting site, coloured red from eating American crayfish. Down stream there are remains of crayfish on a boulder.



fromeriverfriends.org.uk

Friends of the Somerset River Frome

GO
for the
FLOW!



Town Centre

Richard Ackroyd (FTC member, and FRF trustee) has been admiring the wild flowers growing on the FTC-controlled riverbank in the town centre. I asked the council about them.

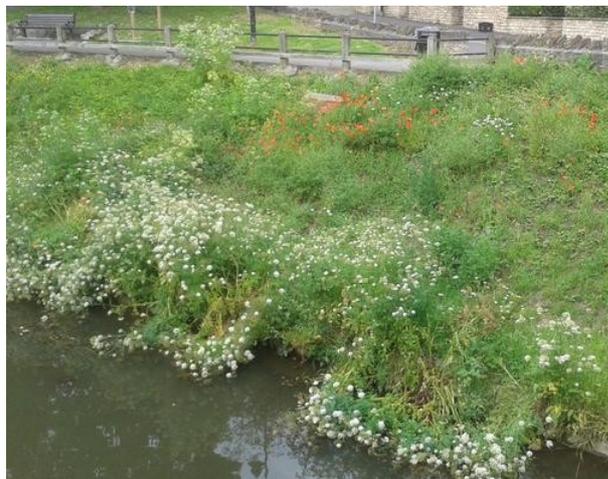
Mike Gerrard, one of the Town Rangers, wrote:

“The rangers team cleared the bank 2 years ago now, cutting scrub and digging out the roots of brambles etc. We then spread a wild flower mix from Emorsgate Seeds (EM5 meadow mix for loamy soils). We chose this mix as it was best suited to what the soil was like as we were working, and for the management we were planning.”

“We also have some more seeds of other mixes that we plan on spreading along the bank in other places. Another possibility is to plug plant seedlings in the autumn. We have all the material assembled for the project, but would need some volunteer support to water and tend the trays of plugs, and help plant them out. If any of your group would like to help with this project then we would be keen to hear from them.”

“In addition to our work, the Environment Agency conduct river bank management to limit flood risk, such as spraying and ripping out growth: this includes the Chateau Gontier walk.”

To contact the Town Ranger Team ring the Town Hall on 01373 465757.



Balsam Bashing

If anyone is interested in continuing the campaign to eradicate Himalayan Balsam from the upper reaches of the river Frome, please contact Judy on judy.hosegood@btinternet.com. Come and explore a different part of the river from in the river itself.



Dipper (photo BTO)



American (signal) crayfish (photo Wikipedia)



Hogweed (photo Wikipedia)

Some dates for 2017

River Walk

River Friend Exploration and Balsam Bash. Thursday 13th July, 10:30 – 12:30.

More details above.

Litter Picks

1st July, 5th August, 2nd and 30th September, 4th November.

Newsletter deadline.

25th August, for publication last week in August