

Newsletter January 2018

AGM

Come along and hear Zoe Hancock, the Catchment Coordinator for the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership talk about the work of the Partnership, and the particular challenges to the River Frome.

The meeting begins at 7:30pm on Tuesday 6th February, in Frome Canoe Club, and starts with a short business session necessary for running the River Friends. Zoe's talk will follow a short break for refreshments.

See the panel below for more details.

Chair

Nick Ray is retiring, having been FRF chair for five years. We are looking for someone new to keep the committee in order.

Litterpicks

Those of you who feel that a Saturday morning is not complete without getting down and dirty among the discarded packaging along our river will be glad to know that our monthly litterpicks are restarting on **Saturday March 3rd**. 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.

This year we will meet on the first Saturday of every month, right through until late Autumn.

Summer events

Writing this in January, with the temperature outside a few degrees above freezing, and gale force winds predicted overnight, it's good to look forward to the summer.

During the **Frome Festival** (6th-15th July), Dorothy Anne will be leading a riverside walk.

And there will be a chance to **explore the upper reaches of the River Frome**, at the same time pulling up **Himalayan Balsam**, during the summer holidays. We are planning 15 sessions from 9th to 13th August.

Pollution

Earlier this month our government announced its intention to eliminate avoidable **plastic waste** in the next 25



fromeriverfriends.org.uk

**Friends
of the
Somerset
River
Frome**

**GO
for the
FLOW!**

years. It would be nice to think that this was the result of a campaign by a national daily newspaper, or a reaction to the heartbreaking scenes in the BBC's Blue Planet 2, or even to public opinion, but the need to deal with 500,000 tonnes of waste per year that will no longer be taken by China must have been influential. Our collection of a few kilos of plastic waste each month seems insignificant, but everything that goes into the river will ultimately end up in the sea, and it just takes one plastic toothpick to kill an albatross.

Sue Everett, an ecology and sustainability consultant who works in the upper Frome catchment area, has submitted a paper to the Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry into **nitrates**. The paper highlights the ease with which pollutants (nitrates, phosphates and sediment) can enter watercourses as a result of careless farming practices. A paper published in Environmental Pollution last November showed how vulnerable mayfly eggs are to phosphate and fine sediment in the water. Mayflies are an important source of food for fish and birds: taking care of the land promotes the health of the rest of nature.



Tuesday 6th FEBRUARY 7:30pm
THE CANOE CLUB, MARKET YARD CAR PARK BA11 1BE

Managing Somerset Rivers The Catchment-based Approach

**Friends of the River Frome invite you to a talk
by Zoe Hancock, Catchment Coordinator for the
Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership**

The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership comprises a range of organisations, groups and authorities including Wessex Water and The Environment Agency dedicated to improving the water environment and provide wider benefits for people and nature, known as the "Catchment Based Approach".

The partnership formed in 2012 with support of central government towards achieving a better water environment for all. The Bristol Avon Catchment encompasses the North Somerset Coastal Streams and the Lower Severn Vale sub catchments including the River Frome.

Zoe will talk on the role of the Catchment Partnership, the key water-based challenges in this area and on our own **River Frome**.

ALL WELCOME – FREE REFRESHMENTS!

Please note:

Membership renewals for those who do **not** pay by standing order fall due at the AGM. The subscription continues to be £10pa.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Andrew Bryant (andrew@brilyant.org)

Litter Pick dates for 2018

This year we will be carrying out our litter picks on the first Saturday of every month.

3rd March

7th April

5th May

2nd June

4th August

1st September