

# Newsletter January 2019

## Annual Meeting

Date: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Frome Canoe Club, Market Yard, Frome (near Cheese and Grain).

This year's topic is "Remembering the River Frome". After we have dealt with the essential business involving reports etc, we will be treated to a discussion between a small group of residents who have known the river for decades. Come along and hear how it used to be, and expect to hear strong views on how it is now. See the attached poster.

## Town Centre Litterpicks

Yes, it's (nearly) that time. Once again we will be holding a litterpick on the first Saturday of each month. We will start, weather permitting, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The usual rules apply:

- Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult
- FRF will supply all the kit
- Please come dressed in clothes that won't be damaged by brambles or mud
- Please wear robust shoes or boots, and if possible bring gloves

We meet in Frome Market Yard, by the river near the entrance to the Cheese and Grain at 10am.

## Restocking the River

You may have seen in the local press that the Environment Agency has been restocking several rivers in Somerset, including the Frome. The Agency website has more details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/somerset-rivers-stocked-with-fish-ahead-of-christmas>

Dorothy Anne reports that she has recently met an angler who had a close encounter with a couple of roach. It seems, though, that these young fish were too canny to be caught.

## Frome Festival 2019

Plans for MeadowFest, our celebration of the river and its environment, are developing. This event is for children, and admission will be free. Several local groups are committed, including FROGS, BART, Children's Festival, and Shared Earth Learning. We expect there will be food for sale, and we are hoping to provide accessible toilets.

Keep the afternoon of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July free for your children.

## Saxonvale

Last year Mendip District Council purchased all the non-FTC land on the Saxonvale site, with a view to driving through a coherent redevelopment. Last weekend the Nash Partnership, the architects who will work on the project alongside the developers Acorn Property Group, held a public consultation.



What they took away from the event we don't know, but I noticed strong views were put forward on the matter of HGVs using Vicarage Street, and a desire to maintain pedestrian access to the riverside right up as far as the railway bridge at Rodden Meadow was expressed. The details on their plans were somewhat sketchy, which is not surprising since they were in information gathering mode, but they did show a footbridge from the site to the beginning of the private section of Willow Vale.

## More about wipes

You may remember the unappetising photo of unreconstructed wet wipes in our last newsletter. There is a petition on the UK parliament website, asking for a ban on the word “flushable” on the packaging of these wipes, but this sadly has very few votes so far.

Click on <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/232870> if you wish to vote, and encourage others to do so.



## News from our Committee

**The Southfield footbridge.** This is a scheme to create a footbridge across the river from Southfield to Adderwell, to provide a pedestrian route from the new development to the area of the station. The capital is sourced from the Section 106 agreement for the Southfield development, and we believe it is available now. Aware that the money will only be available for a limited time, we have decided to fund the feasibility study out of FRF funds in order to get the project moving. The money would be repaid when MDC gets access to the funds.

**Development at Garston Farm Cottage.** The status of this project is still shown as “registered” on the MDC website, but we believe that the land is now a designated Local Green Space, and that planning permission would therefore be refused.

**River Strategic Action Group.** This is a group of supporters who want to promote the interests of the river in the light of developments. They have completed an initial inspection, walking from Spring Gardens to Blatchbridge, and set out a list of priorities. These include entering discussions with Acorn, who will be redeveloping Saxonvale, and the Butler, Tanner and Dennis site, mostly about pedestrian access to the riverside.

## This Month's Wildlife

This is a still from a short video entitled “Hornets and suicidal flies”, taken by Tony House last October.

You can see the full video at:

<http://www.fromeriverfriends.org.uk/images/Newsletter/HornetsFlies.wmv>

This is a large file (25.7MB) so it may take a while before it runs. If it doesn't work, try to save it, then play it from your local drive.



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Contact me if you would like this newsletter emailed to you.

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