



FROGS

Newsletter Summer 2015

Frome Recreation and Open Grounds Supporters www.fromefrogs.org.uk

Welshmill Park

Frome Town Council has provided a fantastic children's play trail and a mound with tunnel at Welshmill Park. The play trail circles around the see-saw on the river side of the play-park, and includes all sorts of timber structures for climbing, balancing, crawling and jumping around. We hope all ages from toddlers upwards will find something to challenge them! The mound with a tunnel through it is positioned between the baby swings and the sandpit and even tinies are having fun both crawling through the tunnel and climbing up and over the mound.





FROGS representatives helped choose the supplier - Vitaplay - and the design of the trail. We are very grateful to the Town Council for funding and managing the project.

Plans are being laid to celebrate this great new addition to Welshmill Park - a community picnic in conjunction with Fair Frome will be held on Saturday 29 August, with children's activities. FROGS will use the occasion to consult everyone about our ideas for willow structures at Welshmill or possibly the Showfield - we need to know what sort of structures people would like and where they should go.

Frome's Second Children's Festival

The 2015 Children's Festival took place on Sunday 12 July at Victoria Park and on the Mary Baily playing field. There was a huge range of activities and entertainment for everyone. It is estimated that around 3,000 people attended and there were queues all day for the monkey bridge, archery and the smoothy bike. The Imaginary Menagerie drew crowds for each performance. If you enjoyed the event and would like to see it happen again next year, please consider becoming a Friend of the Children's Festival and giving a little each month towards its funding – contact Sue Willis at sue@fromechildrensfestival.org

Wildlife Walks

Dan Lupton led a fascinating bird-identification walk through Willow Vale and Rodden Meadow on Midsummer Day and helped us learn to recognise the flight of swifts, jackdaws, house-martins, pigeons and carrion-crows, as well as the calls of blackbirds, wrens, song-thrushes, chiff-chaff, black-caps, magpies, great-tits, long-tailed tit and wood-pigeon.

On Saturday 8 August Mick Ridgard will lead a Moth and Butterflies walk at East Woodlands. Meet at the church at 2pm, but as there is a wedding scheduled for 3pm we are asking those coming by car to park down the lane to the right of the church - this will be signposted.

Adel Avery will lead a bat walk in the late evening of Friday 28 August. Time and meeting point to be confirmed. Details will be circulated via the mailing-list.

Fund-raising for the Missing Link

Congratulations to FROGS' Trustee Marjory Hatvany who has cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats, in aid of the Missing Link project. £20,000 is needed to access funding of £200,000 for Phase II of the project, which will ultimately create a traffic-free cycle path from Frome to the Colliers' Way at Great Elm. This level route - mostly on the line of a disused railway - will help cyclists and walkers to get out into the countryside to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of exercise and fresh air. Marjory set herself a target of £1,000, but hopes to exceed this.

Please sponsor Marjory on www.justgiving.com/Marjory-Hatvany.

FROGS' Constitution

The draft Constitution was approved at a meeting on 15 July and an application is being made for registration by the Charity Commission. The Constitution can be seen on the FROGS' website. Sheila Hedges, Phil Birch, Sue Willis, Cath Haines, Marjory Hatvany and Liz Hutchinson have agreed to serve as Trustees, but we would welcome more - supporters are invited to contact us via the website if you would like to be considered.

Cycling to Longleat?

The application to develop land behind ASDA for housing has failed to provide for the possible links to the Sustrans Cycle route 24 south from Frome to Longleat. FROGS supporters are invited to back The Missing Link's objections to the application by contacting Mendip DC on <http://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/> and quoting reference 2015/1170 in the 'Simple Search' box. Time is short!

Balsham Bashing

Friends of the River Frome are still trying to control the spread of Himalayan Balsam and would welcome more helpers - please check their website for details of the next session, as the meeting place varies: <http://fromeriverfriends.org.uk>

Children's Festival Free Summer Activities

Frome Active is organising FREE activities for children and teenagers during the summer holidays:

Craft Activities for younger children (parents/carers must remain at the session) Tuesdays 10am to noon, 21 July at C&G, 26 July at Key Centre, 4 August at C&G, 11 August at Bridge Centre, 18 August at C&G, and 25 August at Vallis Youth Centre.

Teenagers events (13+) Monday 27 July 7-9pm at Tower View, Friday 7 August 8-10pm - Live Bands at the C&G, Wednesday 12 August 7-9pm gaming tournament at the Leisure Centre, Wednesdays 19 and 26 August 7-9pm DJ sessions at Vallis Youth Centre.