



FROGS Newsletter Autumn 2015

Frome Recreation and Open Grounds Supporters

Town Council Takes Over the Old Showfield Site

Frome Town Council has announced that it has signed contracts with the Agricultural Society and will complete the purchase on 30 September. This is a great result for the town as the Old Showfield will be managed by the community for the community. The main part of the land will be held in trust, as are the Mary Baily playing field and the Birchill Lane allotments, to safeguard it for the future. Two further fields will be held on lease by FTC. An adult fitness trail has been mandated, but there is also a pot of money from the s106 budget from the development of the Medical Practice for further improvements. FTC consulted residents over a year ago on where this should be spent, and the results of this need to be validated and updated if necessary. Please send your views and suggestions to Chris Stringer at: stringerc@frometowncouncil.gov.uk.

FROGS supporters are invited to a celebration to be held by FTC at the Showfield (between the cricket field and the football pitch) on **Wednesday 30 September** from 11.30am onwards – drinks and cake provided!

FROGS was thanked by the Town Clerk for raising the importance of the site through our Village Green Application. We feel confident that the present outcome is the best possible result for Frome.

Welshmill Park Celebration

FROGS teamed up with Fair Frome to host a Community Picnic in Welshmill Park, and to celebrate the installation of the play-trail and tunnel mound, on 29 August. Around 200 people enjoyed free healthy food or brought their own, and were able to take part in Forest School fun, craft activities, story-telling or just play in the park.



We spoke with many to get their views on what else is needed here at Welshmill and made lots of new contacts. And there was even a fly-past by the Red Arrows! The consultation suggested that people would most like to see: seating, a wet-weather shelter, a basket-swing, a 'witch's hat' roundabout, and toilets, which are difficult to provide as there is no piped water.



Concerns were voiced about bullying on the pumptrack, anti-social behaviour in the Roundhouse, and vandalism of neighbouring properties. We have talked to FTC about all these points.

Wildlife Walks

It may have been one of the wettest Augusts on record in some parts, but we were fortunate to have had good weather for our two August Wildlife Walks. Fourteen people came on our Butterflies and Moths walk at East Woodlands, when Mick Ridgard helped us identify more than a dozen different varieties including: Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral, Ringlet, Skipper, Comma, Wood Brown, Brimstone and Peacock.

Adel Avery's Bat walk around Welshmill attracted twelve adults and a sleepy toddler. As dusk fell we tuned in our bat-detectors and from the different frequencies and pattern of calls we identified Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Daubenton's, and Serotine bats. The area between the weir and the Welshmill Lane road bridge was probably the best spot as the bats flashed through our torchbeams quicker than we could follow them! The £25 raised was donated to the Somerset Bat Group.

Many thanks to Mick and Adel for giving us the benefit of their expertise.

What about a Willow Structure?

A willow structure could be placed on the Cheese Showfield once FTC takes ownership, or at Rodden Meadow in natural surroundings, perhaps near to the badgers' setts and the river.



Willow tunnel at NT Stourhead

This will be a great opportunity for children to take part in the planting and help willow-experts to form an arch and maybe other structures. Look out for further details in the spring.

Help yourself to Fruit and Veg

Incredible Edible Frome want to encourage everyone to help themselves to the fruit and veg. they have grown in odd areas around the town, such as alongside North Parade. Do harvest it – that's what it's there for!

FROGS AGM

All FROGS supporters are warmly invited to the AGM to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 November 2015 at Marjory's house. Please contact Liz for further details on lizhutchinson01@yahoo.co.uk