



# FROGS

Newsletter Winter 2015/16

Frome Recreation and Open Grounds Supporters

## Frogs Celebrate Their Tenth Anniversary

FROGS Trustees and supporters raised a glass at the AGM on 9 November to celebrate ten years encouraging the use and development of Frome's open spaces. As someone said, it's lucky that one of our original members was a dab hand at drawing frogs! Two of the founders – Jacqueline Peverley and Cath Haines – were at this year's AGM.



We looked back over the years and recalled some of the things we had done. Our biggest project was getting lottery funding for the cycle pump track, and sandpit and play tower at Welshmill. This led to further funding to encourage wider community use of the area and we were able to run a circus day, story-telling, wildlife roadshow, forest school sessions, birdbox building, and bike activities, all in conjunction with other local groups and individuals.

In 2011 FROGS applied for village green status for the Old Showfield and this ultimately led, in 2015, to the Frome Town Council acquiring this major open space for the benefit of the town.

Over the years FROGS have led or fed into consultations that resulted in improvements at Victoria Park, the Mary Bailey Field, Egford play park, Welshmill Greenway and the Dippy. We identified a number of hidden spaces in Frome and provided information on them to the town council and Save Our Spaces. FROGS member Veryan Conn produced leaflets depicting local walks; the sale of these has been a regular source of funds for us.

At the AGM Sheila Hedges was re-elected Chair, Cath Haines as Treasurer, and Liz Hutchinson as Secretary.

## **Children's Festival – Christmas Party**

The 2015 Christmas Party organised by the Frome Children's Festival will be on Sunday 20 December from 10am to 2pm at the Cheese & Grain. Just £2 per child with under-3s free, and all Frome children are welcome! [www.facebook.com/FromeChildrensFestival](http://www.facebook.com/FromeChildrensFestival)

## **The Big Christmas Day Get-Together**

If you would like company on Christmas Day, why not come along to the Christmas Day community lunch at the Frome Town Football Club. There is no charge, but you do need to book – either on-line, by phone to Margaret on 01373 465418, or in person at the Library. A collection to help fund the event will be made at the Independent Market on Sunday 6 December.

## **FROGS Plans for 2016**

We are looking forward to working with the Town Council on developments at the old Showground site. FTC are consulting the public on what improvements are needed, and are already aware of the need to re-surface some of the paths. Ideas for the adult fitness trail and other improvements should be sent to Ruth Knagg: [knaggr@frometowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:knaggr@frometowncouncil.gov.uk)

Are you a keen photographer? FROGS will help to launch a photography competition in the New Year – Frome's Open Spaces Through The Seasons. There will be winners for each season of the year, culminating in an exhibition at the new Town Hall. More details will follow.

FROGS Wildlife Walks have been popular over the last couple of years and we aim to repeat Birds, Butterflies, and Bats, if we can, and add in Bees and Wild Flowers too!

## **Willow Festival**

A date for your diary: Saturday 2 April has been proposed as the date of a Willow Festival in Rodden Meadow. More details to follow, but the idea is to plant new willows to form play structures.

## Rodden Meadow Gets New Seats



Two sturdy new benches have been installed in Rodden Meadow, close to the river. They carry the inscriptions: 'Stay a while, Play a while' and 'Sit and watch the world go by'. The carving was the work of Charlie Oldham; the inscriptions were the ideas of Tim O'Connor and John Payne, all pictured above.

**Merry Christmas to All FROGS Supporters, and we wish you a healthy, happy, outdoor, 2016!**