



FROGS Newsletter Spring 2016

Frome Recreation and Open Grounds Supporters

FROGS go over to 'The Other Side'

FROGS, Frome Town Council, Friends of the River Frome and edventure are all working together with Incredible Edible and the Apothecary Garden on a community project to develop The Other Side – the riverside space beside the allotments and opposite Welshmill Park – also known as 'The Roundhouse Garden'. A grant of £4000 has been made by the Department for Communities and Local Government under their 'Pocket Parks' scheme.

Ideas have already been gathered through consultation by edventure, and the plan includes the planting of fruit trees and bushes, ferns and woodland flowers, medicinal herbs, and other perennials. Some raised beds are in place, but materials to create more are needed. The soil at the site is very poor and shallow in places, so careful choice of varieties and appropriate planting is needed. There will also be a bee sanctuary and an art wall.



FROGS supporters are invited to help out with donations of materials (timber, especially slabwood, big logs, tree trunks and branches, top-soil, stone boulders, gravel, wood-chip etc), trees, shrubs and plants, and especially your time and assistance with the work. We will let you know the dates of volunteer days to be held in March – please come along with tools, gloves and stout footwear! Contact Liz Hutchinson on lizhutchinson01@yahoo.co.uk with offers and questions.

The money has to be spent by the end of March, so we have to get a wriggle on!

Welshmill Park – Seating and Noticeboards

Frome Town Council has installed really attractive new public noticeboards at many sites in town including Welshmill Park. If you would like to advertise an event, please feel free to put your notice up, or leave laminated copies at the Town Council office in good time for the Rangers to put them up for you. More seating is needed and the Town Council is looking into designs that are both vandal-proof, low-maintenance and attractive. Recycled plastic is widely used for the seats and backs of some designs.

The Dippy is Looking Good!

A band of volunteers, led by Sue Everett and Michael Gerrard the Town Ranger, have been spending Sunday mornings on a programme of work to improve access and sustainability at the Dippy. As well as cutting back the over-grown brambles and nettles, they have sown bluebell seed, thinned the Millennium tree-planting, spread wood-chip, and are now coppicing the hazel. Much of the wood has been left as wildlife shelters, or for children to use in den-building. Litter and dog mess is still a problem, but we have the sense that it is improving.



Do go and see what has been achieved so far – and it is a great corner for birds, bats and other wildlife.

Frome Children's Festival

Around 300 children enjoyed the Christmas Party at the Cheese & Grain, going home with gifts supported by Hunting Raven books and others.

Sunday 10 April sees a Sports Fest at the Football Club, Selwood School, and hopefully the Leisure Centre – watch out for further details.

The Children's Festival itself is provisionally booked for Sunday 10 July at the Cheese & Grain, Welshmill Park, and The Other Side, but funding is a big issue this year and lots needs to be raised to put on a good show. Do consider becoming a friend of the Children's Festival, or making a donation – contact sue@fromechildrensfestival.org.uk Sue is organising a fund-raising fashion show on 18 March – if you would like to be a model (kids, men and women), or buy a ticket, please get in touch.

FROGS will be helping at the summer festival – story-telling, picnic, willow crafts, nursery and pre-school groups are expected - and volunteers are asked to contact Liz on lizhutchinson01@yahoo.co.uk

FROGS Constitution

Our application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation was not successful, so we have decided to remain as an Unincorporated Association. This means that if we are lucky enough to be given funds of over £5000 in any year we will need another body to hold the money for us – Frome Town Council and Mendip DC have done this for us before – and also our trustees and members remain individually liable for any contracts that they enter on FROGS behalf.

Trustees will agree a new draft constitution (much simpler!), and our supporters will be kept informed and invited to become trustees once this is done.

Walkers Are Welcome

The Town Council will shortly apply for recognition as a town in which 'Walkers are Welcome' – which is expected to have benefits in terms of publicity and visitor numbers. FROGS have supported this venture, and if you are involved in any local walking groups, you might like to get them behind the initiative, too.

FROGS' Wildlife Walks

We are putting together a programme of walks again this summer – so far we have the following dates for your diaries:

Sunday 15 May 9am Bird Identification in Willow Vale and Rodden Meadow with Dan Lupton

Saturday 13 August 2pm Butterflies at East Woodlands with Eve Tigwell and Mick Ridgard

Friday 26 August 7.30pm Bats with Adel Avery – location to be confirmed.

Bees and Wildflowers are also proposed – details to follow.