



FROGS Newsletter Spring Extra 2016

Frome Recreation and Open Grounds Supporters

FROGS Working Parties at 'The Other Side'

Work has begun to develop The Other Side – the riverside space beside the allotments and opposite Welshmill Park, also known as 'The Roundhouse Garden'. Together with Incredible Edible, the Apothecary Garden and Frome Town Council, FROGS supporters have started clearing turf from the area where wildflowers will be sown, and working to suppress the nettles, cleavers and brambles alongside the river. There is a lot more to be done, including clearing and re-filling the existing raised beds, and filling and planting new ones.

We have three more work sessions planned for March, and desperately need more volunteers – could you come along and give us a hand, please? They will be: **Tuesday 29 March, Wednesday 30 March and Thursday 31 March, all from 10am to 12noon.** Please just turn up with footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather conditions – it will be muddy! If you can bring a spade and a wheelbarrow that would be a big help, but we do have some tools.



Soil tests have been carried out and there is evidence of contamination, so volunteers must exercise strict hand hygiene – wash well after working and before eating or drinking, and cover any cuts. Further tests will be undertaken to establish the extent of this contamination, and remedial work will be carried out as a training exercise later in the year.

The first work session on Good Friday was great fun – do come along if you can!

Frome Sports Fest

Frome Active will be organising a day of family fun and sports on Sunday 10 April, from 10am to 2pm. There will be free taster sessions from aerobics to zumba by way of archery, gymnastics, martial arts, BMXing, football, and loads more. Events take place at Frome Football Club, Selwood School and Victoria Park – go to www.fromeactive.org.uk or www.facebook.com/fromechildrensfestival

Frome Children's Festival

The Children's Festival 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 more money needs to be raised to put on a good show. Do consider becoming a friend of the Children's Festival, being a sponsor, or making a donation – contact sue@fromechildrensfestival.org.uk

FROGS will be helping at the summer festival – wildlife displays, story-telling, and a community picnic are expected at Welshmill - and volunteers able to help on a FROGS stall there are asked to contact Liz on lizhutchinson01@yahoo.co.uk

FROGS' Wildlife Walks – the programme:

Sunday 15 May – Bird Identification

Discover the huge variety of birds in Willow Vale and Rodden Meadow with Dan Lupton. Meet at 9am at the town bridge end of Willow Vale. Adults £2. Accompanied children free and welcome. Sorry no dogs please. It could be muddy if wet – appropriate footwear is recommended.

Saturday 18 June – Bumblebees and Wild Flowers

Join Somerset Wildlife Trust's Pippa Rayner on a walk around the meadows at Whatcombe Fields where you can learn about the bumble bees and the wildflowers they rely on. Pippa will show us how to tell one bumblebee species from another, as well as which flowers are their favourites and why. Meet at 2pm at the gate on the

cycle path from Low Water into Whatcombe Fields. Please park considerately in Whatcombe Road. You'll need suitable clothing and footwear for the weather conditions.

Saturday 13 August – Butterflies

Mick Ridgard and Eve Tigwell will introduce us to woodland butterflies. Meet at 2pm at East Woodlands church. Adults £2. Accompanied children free and welcome. Dogs on short leads only, please.

Friday 26 August – Bats

Discover the bats at Welshmill with Adel Avery. We can listen to their calls on bat-detectors to identify the variety, as well as seeing them fly through the torch beams. Meet at 7.30pm in the Cheese & Grain car park, near the canoe club, and bring a torch if possible. £2 for adults and children.

Youth Activities at The Other Side

Frome Town Council has allocated some funding for youth work at The Other Side in August 2016, in a bid to avoid the vandalism that occurred towards the end of the summer holidays in 2015.

FROGS Meetings

FROGS supporters are welcome to attend our meetings – the next is at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 10 May 2016**. Please contact Liz Hutchinson for further details and an agenda:

lizhutchinson01@yahoo.co.uk