



# FROGS Newsletter

Frome Recreation and Open Grounds Supporters

Winter 2016-17

## **FROGS AGM**

Many thanks to all FROGS supporters who came to our AGM last month, it was good to see so many of you at The Three Swans.

A new Trustee was appointed – Peter Hoare – and five of the previous Trustees were re-appointed (Cath Haines, Marjory Hatvany, Sheila Hedges, Liz Hutchinson, and Sue Willis). Phil Birch has stepped down after many years working actively for FROGS – we thank him very warmly for all he has done in the past, and hope that we will still see him at our events in the future.

## **Outdoor Volunteers Co-ordination**

At the AGM we learned about moves to co-ordinate outdoor volunteer work in Frome. There are many organisations in the town that rely on volunteers to carry out conservation work, run events, etc, but struggle to get enough people. Most organisations use a pool of their own supporters and it can be difficult for new people to find out about what is happening, when and where, so that they can join in. A single programme for all the groups to contribute details to, and which can be widely advertised, has been proposed.

It would also be helpful to avoid duplication in training, risk assessment, volunteer management, and tools and equipment, and to have a pool of trained leaders.

Frome Town Council and others are working to bring ideas together and we hope to have further news in the New Year.

## The Roundhouse Garden at The Other Side

Another circular raised bed has been planted up – this one with medicinal herbs – and we hope that the Rangers will be able to make us some more of these cleverly-designed structures. They are really easy to plant into and the soil is suitable for growing edible plants (unlike the soil on the site itself). We would like to hear from any community groups that would like to take responsibility for one or more of these beds, perhaps to teach gardening skills; to grow fruit, vegetables, or herbs; or to create your own beautiful flower bed. Please contact Liz on [lizhutchinson01@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lizhutchinson01@yahoo.co.uk)



There are culinary herbs in the smaller of the two polygonal raised beds, rosemary, thyme, sorrel, parsley, lavender, coriander to name a few. Anyone is welcome to help themselves to whatever they need from any of the beds.



There will be a volunteer session at The Other Side (beside the river, opposite Welshmill Park), on **Saturday 21 January** between 11am and 1 pm – do come along if you can to help with mulch-spreading, tidying up etc. Suitable clothing, gloves and footwear are advisable, and if you can bring a rake that would be a big help!

## **The Dippy**

Frome Town Council has further improved the access to The Dippy – as well as replacing kissing gates with easy to open gates, the paths have been re-surfaced and are much easier for people with buggies and wheelchairs. There is also talk of installing the little solar-powered lights, like those in Welshmill.

## **Seating at Welshmill**

One new bench seat, with a back, made from re-cycled plastic has been installed at Welshmill Park by FTC. There should have been three, but two were stolen before they were even installed. The beautiful carved wooden seat has also been damaged; it is hoped that this can be repaired.

## **Victoria Park**

The Town Council has exciting plans for improvements at the Mary Baily/Victoria Park, including proposals for a central building with toilets

and a cafe. These ideas are to be the subject of a local vote in March, under the Participatory Budgeting scheme. Do be sure to find out about this and to vote!

## **Wildlife Walks 2017**

Plans are being laid for next year's Wildlife Walks programme. So far we can propose:

Saturday 6 May Bird Identification with Dan Lupton

June/early July Wild Flowers with Veryan Conn

June/July Butterflies and Moths with Mick Ridgard and Eve Tigwell

August Butterflies and Moths with Mick and Eve

We hope Bees and Bats will also be on offer again!

## **Frome Children's Festival**

The Christmas Party will be on Sunday 18 December from 10am to 2pm at the Cheese & Grain. As well as Santa, there will be crafts, face-painting, music and cake decorating. Volunteers are needed – please contact Sue Willis on:

[sue@fromechildrensfestival.org](mailto:sue@fromechildrensfestival.org) if you can spare a couple of hours. I'm sure it will be fun!

Plans are being laid for a Sports Participation Day at Easter, and the main Festival is provisionally arranged for Sunday 9 July. Funding is still an issue. If you or any business you can persuade would be willing to sponsor the Festival, the organisers would be tremendously grateful. Please contact Sue, as above.



**Happy Christmas Everyone!**