



FROGS

Newsletter Winter 2017/8

Frome Recreation and Open Grounds Supporters

FROGS AGM

We held our AGM at the Community Room at ASDA on 23 November – many thanks to the store for allowing us to do so.

Sheila Hedges was re-elected as Chair, Cath Haines as Treasurer and Liz Hutchinson as Secretary. They agreed to be trustees again, as well as Sue Willis and Ann Taylor.

Chris Stringer, Environment Manager at Frome Town Council, gave us an update on FTC's plans for the open spaces in the year ahead, including maintenance of paths at The Roundhouse Garden, Victoria Park and The Showfield; additional seating at many locations; the play area and wildflower meadows at The Showfield; and proposals for the toilets and cafe at Victoria Park. FROGS will help to run a consultation event to gather views on the quality of play opportunities for both adults and children in the town. FTC will be undertaking a wide-ranging survey of all play spaces over the winter, and our quality assessment would feed into this. FROGS will also be supporting the proposed FTC Skate-Jam (perhaps as part of the Sports Festival in April) to encourage the formation of a user-group of the Mary Baily skate park, which could lead a project to update the facility.

Sheila reported that over 2017 we had held regular gardening sessions at The Roundhouse, with 4 or 5 volunteers helping to care for the raised beds, shrubs, climbers and flower border. The Rangers had done a great job in building the round raised beds and in keeping the area well-trimmed. We had run two

sessions at the Roundhouse with herbalists Em and Jude who identified the medicinal herbs and told us about their uses.

We organised five Wildlife Walks, including a new wildflower walk at Great Elm; helped at the Children's Festival; and we spent a morning at Vallis School talking about Frome's wildlife. The trustees have looked at how the new data protection act will affect us and updated our safeguarding policy.

Sue gave a report on the activities organised by the Children's Festival throughout the year – it isn't just one day in the Festival each year! This was what they were involved in, in 2016/17:

Ecos Court residents Christmas Party

Children's Festival Christmas Party

Sportivate 2016/17 – Actifun!

Fair Frome Community Day

Potato and Seed Day

Make it Happen – Youth Conference

Sport Festival and Mayhem at Rodden Meadow

Carnival Fun Day

Ecos Court and Trinity area kids sessions

Children's Festival 2017

Party in the Park

Carnival Day kids' activities

Sportivate – Fight Like a Girl

Chocolate Festival

Volunteers are needed to help with their next event on Sunday 17 December – the Christmas Party – please contact Sue: sue@fromechildrensfestival.org.uk

Funding from Tesco for Forest School

Tesco's Bags of Help scheme has awarded £1000 to support Forest School sessions for a local first school at The Roundhouse Garden.

Hedge-Planting at The Showfield

FTC organised the planting of 420 hedge saplings around the perimeter of the play area at The Showfield on Sunday 26 November. This is both less expensive and will look better than a fence, once it is grown, and the varieties chosen will be great for wildlife. Loads of volunteers attended, including FROGS.



Yellowfish Comes to Frome

FROGS will be helping Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to run a Yellowfish Day in Frome, probably in March 2018. We will be painting a yellow fish device (in water-based thoroughly environmentally-friendly marker) on drains to raise awareness of the danger of tipping waste liquids like paint or chemicals into surfacewater drains that empty straight into the river. The BART team will provide advice for the public on alternative ways to dispose of such products.

Herbal Workshop Sessions

Following the success of the herbalists' talks last summer, we plan to run three workshop sessions at The Roundhouse, when Olivia – a qualified herbalist – will show us how to use the herbs to make infusions, tinctures, poultices, creams etc. We hope to offer sessions appropriate to the season – watch out for further news! There may also be another identification walk and talk as an introduction to the workshops.

Wildlife Walks

A programme of Wildlife Walks will be arranged again for the spring and summer, but in the meantime please join us on a joint walk with Somerset Wildlife Trust at Rodden Nature Reserve (beside ASDA petrol station) on Sunday 14 January 2018. Further details will follow.

Data Protection

FROGS holds the names and email addresses of its supporters, and the names, addresses and email addresses of its trustees. This information is held in order to establish and maintain support; we send our supporters information on events, activities and local issues, FROGS Newsletters, and appeals for volunteers.

The information is password protected and is not shared with other people or organisations.

If you wish to cease being a FROGS supporter and for your information to be deleted, please contact us at enquiries@fromefrogs.org.uk