

News Update

New Partnership

The Avon Valley Partnership and the Friends of the River Frome have joined forces to form the wider Avon Frome Partnership with better opportunities for attracting funding and new partners to enhance our river corridors.

The Partnership's work is guided by a 10-year strategy. The projects identified by the strategy will be co-ordinated by the Avon Frome Development Officer and delivered by a wide range of partners.

For a copy of the strategy contact the Avon Frome Development Officer, Paula Spiers, tel: 0117 922 4325; paula.spiers@bristol.gov.uk

WILDthings Website

The WILDthings Partnership coordinates local biodiversity activity across Bath & NE Somerset. Their new website provides all you need to know about WILDthings, their biodiversity action plans (BAPs) and progress towards them: www.wildthingsbap.org.uk

Invasive Plants Project

The Avon Frome Partnership is working with partners and communities to develop a project aimed at halting the spread of invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam along the Avon and Frome river corridors. Due to the scale of the problem it is unrealistic for the project to completely eradicate these plants. Instead, we will concentrate on removing invasive plants from carefully targeted biodiversity hotspots and protected sites such as Local Nature Reserves. We should hear if we have been successful in securing funding by late spring 2008.

River Avon - news overleaf

www.riveravontrail.org.uk

White-Clawed Crayfish in Trouble

Our native crayfish, which feature in the Biodiversity Action Plan, are being terrorised by the American signal crayfish. The signals carry a crayfish disease but also eat plants, invertebrates and fish, decimating the river ecology. Unfortunately there is no cure at present.

BRISTOL Frenchchay M32 Stapleton Eastville Winterbourne Coalpit Heath Yate Chipping Sodbury Old Sodbury Tormarton M4 **COTSWOLDS** **BATH** Mangotsfield Staple Hill Pucklechurch Warmley Oldland Bitton Swineford Saltford Newbridge

Frome Valley Walkway

Removing adult signals only encourages youngsters to grow faster and it is illegal to disturb crayfish without a license.

The native white-clawed crayfish

Invaders - American signal crayfish

Sally Pattison

South Gloucestershire Council is working with Avon Wildlife Trust, Bristol Zoo, the Environment Agency and the Avon Frome Partnership to get funding to protect our rapidly dwindling Frome white-clawed crayfish population. As well as surveys and training, the funding would allow new sites to be investigated to move the remaining white-clawed crayfish from the Frome and into safer homes.

River Frome news

www.fromewalkway.org.uk

New Railway Path Leaflet

A fully revised and updated leaflet has been published. You can collect a copy from your local library or, on request to the Development Officer, Paula Spiers: 0117 922 4325 paula.spiers@bristol.gov.uk

BRISTOL Eastville Easton Old Market Fishponds Mangotsfield Staple Hill Pucklechurch Warmley Oldland Bitton Swineford Saltford Newbridge **BATH**

New Gateway

Walking & Cycling
Walking, Cycling & Horseriding

The Bristol & Bath Railway Path has a new gateway to mark its beginning at St Philips, Bristol, thanks to a project led by Sustrans and Bristol Parks to celebrate Sustrans' 30th anniversary. The twisted arch is in the form of four trees and was made from reclaimed steel by Cod Steaks, the local company who make sets for Wallace and Gromit. Further landscaping works to improve the entrance will take place over the winter.



The Avon Frome Partnership is funded by Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council and is co-ordinated by a steering group that also includes the Forest of Avon, the Environment Agency and BTCV.

If you have ideas or suggestions please contact the Avon Frome Development Officer: Bristol Parks Colston 33, Colston Avenue Bristol BS1 4UA email: paula.spiers@bristol.gov.uk

Who's Who

Development Officer
Paula Spiers
0117 922 4325

B&NES Council
Miriam Woolnough
01225 477612

Bristol City Council
Caroline Hollies
0117 922 3719

S. Glos. Council
Chris Giles
01454 863725

BTCV
Ian Ross
0117 929 1624

Forest of Avon
Chris Weedon
0117 953 2141

Environment Agency
Melissa Clarkson
01278 484608

The Avon Frome bulletin is available on audio tape, disk or braille on request

Bristol & Bath Railway Path news

www.bristolbathrailwaypath.org.uk

Downs' Tree Trail

The new Downs' tree trail leaflet is hot off the press! Leafy delights include a monkey puzzle tree, Bristol whitebeam and the tree of heaven. The leaflet is packed with fascinating facts, identification tips and lovely illustrations. Download a copy from: www.avongorge.org.uk.

You'll find the Downs' bird trail, a virtual wildlife tour, events details and kids' pages too. Paper copies from Mandy Leivers, Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project: e-mail mleivers@bristolzoo.org.uk



New Trail for Conham

Conham River Park has become more accessible for all. Wheelchair users and people with mobility difficulties can now gain access to the River Avon Trail. Families with push-chairs, cyclists and horse riders will also benefit thanks to South Glos. Council and funds from



Cllr Sandra O'Neil, Chair of South Glos. Council, opens the new facilities

Pondmania!

Bristol children and their parents enjoyed pond-dipping at Eastwood Farm this summer thanks to the construction of a new pond-dipping platform.



Flying the Flag at Troopers Hill



- Walking
- Walking & Cycling
- Walking, Cycling & Horseriding



Bristol Parks and the Friends of Troopers Hill are delighted to announce that this wonderful Local Nature

Reserve has been awarded a Green Flag – the national standard for parks and green spaces. The Flag is a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces. Troopers Hill is near the River Avon in St. George and can be reached from Troopers Hill Road or Malvern Road. Find out more at: www.troopers-hill.org.uk

the Forestry Commission and South Gloucestershire Environment Board. Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund has helped pay for works in Avon Valley Woodlands LNR. £56,800 will be spent on other improvements. A new group – Friends of Hanham Nature Reserve – will work with the Council to enhance the woodlands. To join the group contact John Morris on 01454 863581.

B&NES Ambition

In 2007, three of B&NES Council's Local Nature Reserves were entered into the Green Flag scheme. The Council hopes that all three sites will have been awarded the Green Flag by 2010.



Events & Activities

Manor Road Community Woodland Local Nature Reserve (Keynsham)

Task days 2008; all 10am-1pm:
 Sunday 20th January
 Sunday 24th February
 Sunday 23rd March

Meet by the gate on Manor Rd nearest houses. Wear old clothes. Tools and refreshments provided. Info: Miriam Woolnough, Bath & N. E. Somerset Council, 01225 477612.

Kensington Meadows Local Nature Reserve (Bath)

A beautiful riverside fringe landscape with damp meadows and old pollarded willows. The Friends' Group welcomes new members. Info: Miriam Woolnough, Bath & N. E. Somerset Council, 01225 477612.

Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve (Bristol) www.troopershill.org.uk

Work days 2008:
 Saturday 12th January
 Saturday 2nd February
 Saturday 1st March
 Saturday 5th April

Meet at corner of Greendown and Troopers Hill Rd. Work parties finish with a chat over refreshments. Gloves and tools provided but wear long sleeves and suitable footwear.



Sunday 2nd March 10.30am
 Geology Walk

Join local geologist Eileen Stonebridge for a tour of discovery! A Nature in the City Event. Info: Sally Oldfield, Bristol City Council, 0117 922 4429.

Willsbridge Mill (Nr Bitton)
 Sunday 20th January 2-5pm

Wassailing

Join a lively ceremony to revive this long lost local tradition to ensure a good fruit harvest the following season. Make noisy instruments and lanterns for a procession to wake the orchard up from its winter slumbers. Fruity trails, orchard games, home made apple refreshments. Free.

Wednesday 20th February
 10-12.30pm & 1.30-4pm

Spring Quest

Follow the trail round Willsbridge Valley and see it springing to life and colour. Inspired by your walk, help us to make shadow puppets for a spectacular spring show. Family drop-in event suitable for all ages. Info: Ruth Worsley, Avon Wildlife Trust, 0117 932 6885.



Avon Frome bulletin

The bi-annual newsletter of the Avon Frome Partnership

No.1 winter 2007

- Crayfish in trouble
- B&BRP new gateway
- Conham fishing platform
- Green Flag Awards



Caring for our river corridors