



Halt the Invasion! Update

A successful event organised by the Avon Invasive Weed Forum was held in July at Manor Woods Valley in Bristol and Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve in South Gloucestershire.

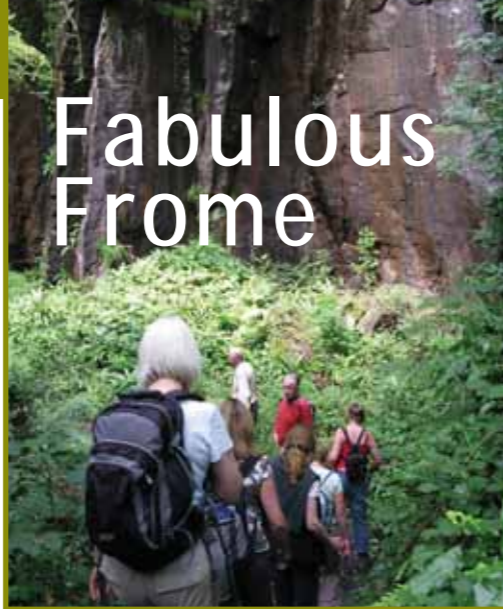
Around 40 volunteers took part on the day to raise awareness of the problems posed by non-native invasive weeds and pull as much Himalayan balsam as possible. Three large skip fulls were removed – a great start to this worthy campaign! See www.aiwf.org.uk for details.

◀ Maggie, a volunteer, demonstrates the size of the troublesome weed



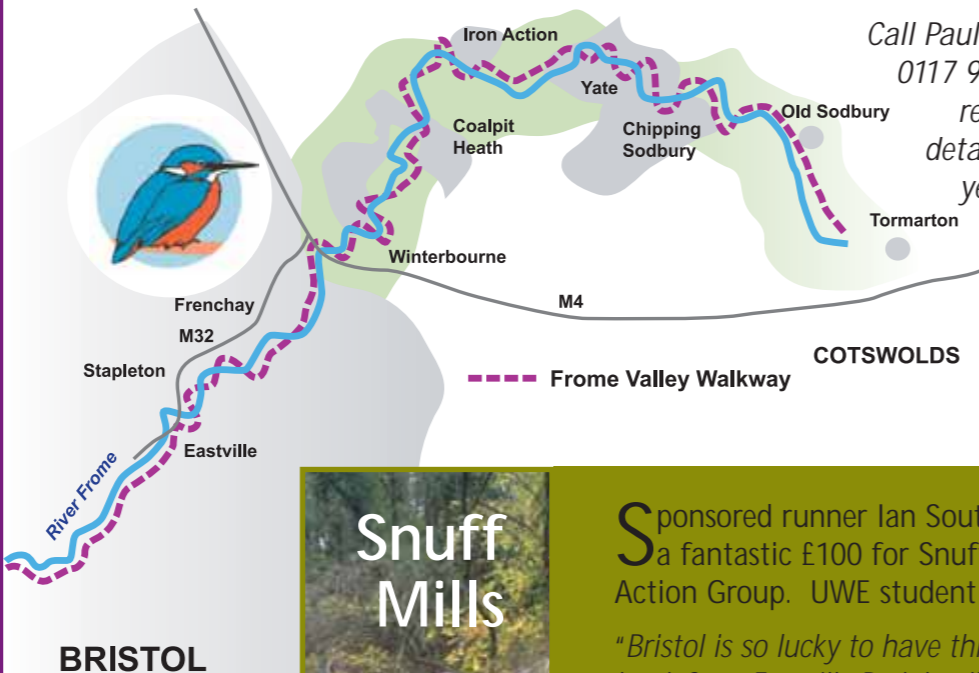
River Avon – news overleaf

www.riveravontrail.org.uk



Fabulous Frome

A series of special walks took place over the summer and autumn to celebrate the wildlife and heritage of the River Frome. Organised by The Avon Frome Partnership, working with the Bristol Living Rivers Project, the Friends of the River Frome and South Gloucestershire Council, the walks gave a taster of what a wonderful place the Frome Valley is, linking important green spaces, woodlands, riverside areas and parks from the heart of Bristol through to the Cotswolds.



Call Paula Spiers on 0117 922 4325 to register your details for next year's walks.



Snuff Mills

Sponsored runner Ian Southby raised a fantastic £100 for Snuff Mills Action Group. UWE student Ian said:

"Bristol is so lucky to have this stretch of land, from Eastville Park leading up through historic Snuff Mills to the country beyond. A very big thank you to everyone, and to the volunteers who maintain and campaign for the upkeep of the River Frome along this stretch."

River Frome news

www.fromewalkway.org.uk



The Dramway

Did you know that the Railway Path links to the Dramway, another historic trail which follows the original route of a 19th century, horse-drawn railway that

carried coal from Coalpit Heath to the River Avon? This 9-mile linear walk, where some intriguing features from the old railway still remain, has no steep hills and offers lots of opportunities for circular walks and refreshment stops.



Booklets are available from South Gloucestershire Council on: 01454 863646 or www.southglos.gov.uk

- Walking & Cycling
- Walking, Cycling & Horseriding

A warm welcome

Get a warm welcome next time you enter the Railway Path at St Philips Road, Bristol. A new sign, designed to complement the Twisted Arch sculpture, will greet path users as they pass through the once anonymous entrance, announcing that they are now joining the popular route. Similar signs will be placed at other major entrances as funding becomes available.



Bristol & Bath Railway Path news

www.bristolbathrailwaypath.org.uk



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:

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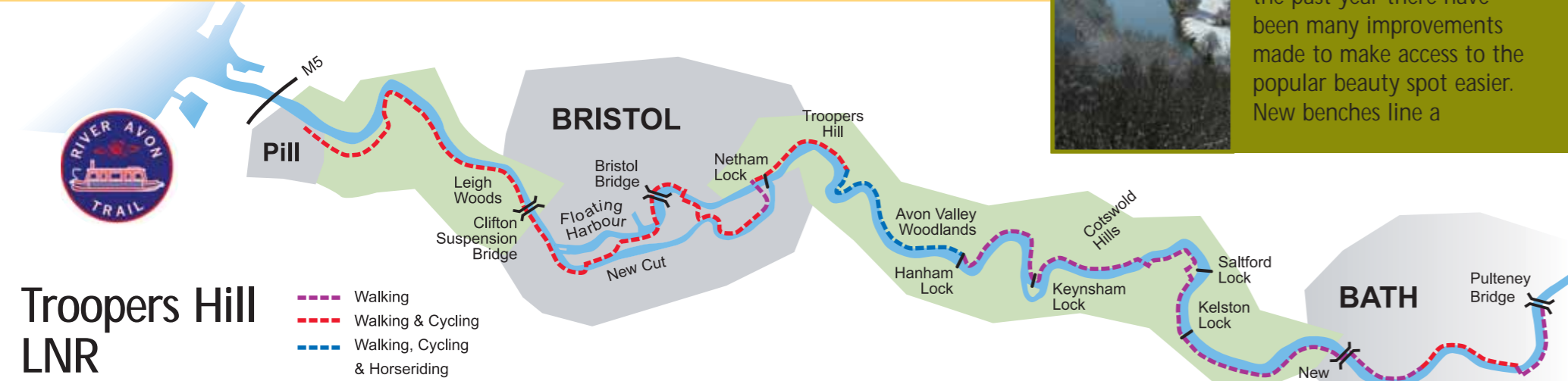
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The Avon Frome bulletin is available on audio tape, disk or braille on request

Pill Foreshore and Old Sea Bank Project

The River Avon Trail ends at Pill but if you walk by the river to the other side of the village, the footpath continues across an expanse of salt grass and under the M5 bridge. The path continues along the 'Old Sea Bank', which has been cleared. You can now reach a point with a clear view of the river's

mouth and across the Estuary to the Welsh Hills. The bridge, warehouses, pylons, wind turbines and cranes on either side of the river, are all on a massive scale. But you may also see redshank and hear the piping calls of oystercatchers and curlew. Pill Community Forum plans to fundraise for seating and information at the end of the path.



Troopers Hill LNR

One of the most spectacular summer sights in Bristol are the purple banks of heather on Troopers Hill - the only place in Bristol where lowland heath is found. Scrub encroachment is a major threat to this special habitat so in order to protect the heath and preserve it for future

generations, we have been working with Bristol Parks to clear some of the scrub and trees. Cutting down trees is always emotive and caused some upset locally but we hope that once people realise the benefits to this unique site and the importance of protecting it, they will support our work.

Friends work parties are held on the first Saturday of every month, 10am to midday. See www.troopers-hill.org.uk for details.



Avon Valley Woodlands LNR



What better way to start the New Year than to visit Conham River Park in the Avon Valley Woodlands Local Nature Reserve? Over the past year there have been many improvements made to make access to the popular beauty spot easier. New benches line a

resurfaced path from the car park to Conham Ferry Crossing (closed during the winter), up Ferry Lane and back to the car park.

Raising the standard

A new five year management plan for the site is currently being written following public consultation. The plan will provide guidance to South Gloucestershire Council to ensure a high standard of management in line with the Green Flag Award scheme. Special attention will be given to making sure the reserve is welcoming, and managed well for local people and wildlife.

Bat Hot Spot

Recent inspections of bat boxes installed in the reserve have revealed a Brown long eared bat. Seven other types have now been detected. That means we have half of Britain's bat species population, including the rare lesser horseshoe bat, listed within the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan. Look out for a new series of bat detecting walks in the spring.

Dotted Beefly



Carrs Woodland LNR on the edge of Bath is a wildlife haven. A lesser known inhabitant is the nationally scarce Dotted Beefly - *Bombylius discolor*. This insect looks like a bee but is in fact a fly. It is briefly seen during April on sunny grassland slopes, often feeding on the nectar of primroses and cowslips. Details Miriam Woolnough: 01225 477612.



Walks

Wassailing at Willsbridge

Sunday 18th January, 2-5pm

A lively ceremony to awaken the sleeping orchard and its wildlife to ensure a bumper harvest later in the year. Free Entry. For details contact Avon Wildlife Trust 0117 932 6885.

Wild Waters Update



images of Eastwood Farm LNR. Ashton Gate Primary School used mud from the Avon New Cut to print banners. The Avon Energy Trail took an historic look at the Avon downstream from Bristol Docks, and beautiful wood engravings depicted wildlife at the river mouth. The Wild Waters Family Day enticed hundreds of people of all ages to enjoy films, live music, talks, storytelling, a treasure hunt, a magical autumn walk, stream-dipping and more!

Wild Waters, organised by the Avon Biodiversity Partnership, was a fortnight of events in October to celebrate our local rivers and estuary with an exhibition at the CREATE Centre. The River Avon, as our major local river, inspired a wide range of pieces. Students from Silai in Easton created a linear textile piece reflecting



Avon Valley Walk

Sunday 19th April, 10am-4pm

Organised by Friends of Troopers Hill & the South Bristol Riverscapes Project, this guided walk takes us through Conham, Dundridge Park, Troopers Hill, St Anne's Woods, Nightingale Valley & Eastwood Farm finishing at Beeses' Bar & Tea Gardens to catch the ferry back to Conham. Bring a packed lunch. Details: www.troopers-hill.org.uk/AvonValley



AVON FROME bulletin

The bi-annual newsletter of the Avon Frome Partnership

NO.3 winter 2008/9

- Fabulous Frome
- The Dramway
- Pill Foreshore
- Bat Hot Spot

Bat: Jim Mulholland; Dotted beefly: Mike Williams

Caring for our river corridors