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# Newsletter

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We're growing!

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It's all in the pass  
at Lintzford

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Celebrating our  
volunteers

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Mayfly in the  
classroom


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# Welcome

We have been busy here at Tyne Rivers Trust in the last few months, with tasks which range from building a brand new fish pass at the historic and picturesque Lintzford (see page 3) to teaching children about the importance of Mayflies to the river ecosystem (page 4).

As we head into winter and temperatures drop, we'll be concentrating on monitoring access to spawning grounds and tributaries to improve sustainable habitat development in the catchment. Initial signs are very positive with burns full of pioneering sea trout and a good stock of fish in the river. The next few pages give you a snapshot of what we've achieved over the past six months and our focus for 2017. Thanks for reading.

## We're growing

 There will be some new faces over the next few months at Tyne Rivers Trust.

Liz Walters has already joined us as project manager from the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. She will be working as part of the River Don partnership on a project to improve the river's ecology and reduce the risk of flooding on the Don, which is a tidal tributary of the Tyne and joins it at Jarrow.

Jack Bloomer will join us shortly as project manager. He recently completed his PhD in fish egg and fry survival, with some of his research carried out on the river Rede.

We also look forward to welcoming another river projects manager and farms coordinator in the New Year.




Liz Walters taken by Graham Holyoak

# It's all in the pass at Lintzford!



Douglas Phillips & Karen Daglish taken by Martin Farrer.

 Migratory fish are successfully negotiating a two metre high weir at Lintzford, County Durham thanks to our latest rock pool fish pass.

Salmon and sea trout as well as important species like lamprey, eels and grayling have not been able to freely move up the River Derwent at Lintzford since the weir was built to provide water to power Lintzford Corn Mill 300 years ago.

However, this is now a problem of the past as the new pass, made up of six leaky rock pools and built from stone, allows fish to move up the two metre obstruction in small steps to complete their journey to spawn upstream. The rock pools

are designed with gaps so they are leaky and give different species suitable ways of moving up the pass because not all species can leap as spectacularly as salmon.

The design of the pass was particularly important as it sits on a very attractive stretch of the Derwent. To preserve the heritage of this beauty spot, the Trust worked on a design that rests on the historic weir rather than cutting into it, as well as making sure that the construction method protected nearby vegetation, trees and wildlife habitat.


Douglas Phillips, Director of Tyne Rivers Trust says: "The Derwent, like many rivers in our region

has had a heavy industrial past leaving many in-river obstructions for fish of all species. Both the Environment Agency, who have part funded this project and the Trust work tirelessly to find ways that will allow fish to pass by these obstructions to improve the biodiversity of the whole river system."

The project was completed as part of the £3.4 million, Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership (LOI), supported by a £2.3million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which focuses on the Derwent Valley from Derwent Reservoir to the River Tyne, including Consett, Winlaton, Rowlands Gill and Prudhoe.

# Celebrating our Volunteers



 Our volunteers have been out in force over the summer months getting involved in a whole host of tasks to improve the river.

In June we had a Riverfly monitoring training day, training 12 new volunteers in kick sampling.

Kick sampling involves taking a water sample from the river to monitor for six different River fly nymphs. Nymphs are a good indicator of the health of the river –they're bottom of the food chain so if their numbers suddenly drop it indicates that there is a problem with pollution in that stretch of water. Volunteers have their own patch and test it on a monthly basis. This really does work, a volunteer recently alerted us to a sudden drop in numbers of river fly nymphs in his area, and the Environment Agency are now investigating the problem.

June also saw the start of our invasive season. We worked with everyone from Cub Scouts to angling clubs, as well as with our regular volunteers to remove invasive species like Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and Giant hogweed from our riverbanks.

This was followed by invasive species surveys. Volunteers were given a stretch of the river to walk and map any invasive species they found onto a tablet. Along with last year's results this has given us a clearer picture as to the extent of the Tyne's invasive species problem and will allow us to plan tasks to tackle it more efficiently next year.


Finally, we enjoyed some days out on the river electrofishing in spots where we have carried out improvement works to see how effective they have been.

Electrofishing uses electricity to temporarily stun the fish, allowing us to catch them and record the number, size and species. We do this every year to evaluate habitat conditions and the size and age structure of fish populations in our catchment.

Once again, our fantastic volunteers never cease to amaze us with their hard work and commitment to the Tyne catchment. Over the coming months we will be planting thousands of trees, here are some dates for your diary. If you'd like to get involved contact Simone Price on 01434 636902/s.price@tynerivertrust.org

- **Friday 18th November**
- **Monday 21st November**
- **Friday 25th November**
- **Monday 28th November**

# Our 2017 Charity calendar

 Our 2017 charity calendar is now on sale! Made up of 12 striking shots of the river Tyne from Chollerford Bridge to Walker and everything in between, the A4 glossy calendar has even been bought by river Tyne lovers as far away as Australia!

The calendar was put together as the result of a photo competition. River enthusiasts were asked to submit their best photos of the glorious Tyne catchment and David Taylor of David Taylor photography gave up his time to judge the competition.




The winners, whose images each illustrate a month of the year, have all received a copy of the calendar. They are: Bob Turner, Eileen Charlton, Kevin Dick, John Austin, Brian Bird, Paul Macchiarelli, Aidan Pollard, Owen Hogg, Gordon Carlton and Kay Nixon with Martin Farrer and his image of his dog, Holly, scooping the front cover shot.

The calendar is raising crucial funds for the Trust to continue to carry out its important work. We'd like to say thank you to EGGER for covering the production costs of the calendar, which means that all money raised goes back into improving the river.

The calendar is priced at £10 and can be bought from our website ([www.tyneriverstrust.org.uk/calendar](http://www.tyneriverstrust.org.uk/calendar)) or outlets across the catchment including Hexham Abbey Gift shop, Forum books in Corbridge and the Sage Gateshead.

# RCS revival/direction of TRT/new contract wins

 We are now working with Greggs to extend our volunteer network into urban areas. Through its charitable arm, 'The Greggs Foundation', Greggs plc have donated the proceeds from the plastic carrier bag charge to support environmental education projects for local communities in and around rivers. We will be using this money to help people who live in the more built-up areas of our catchment gain a greater appreciation for the river.

The changing funding climate means we need to look at other ways of carrying out projects, which includes increasing the work we do with the Trust's commercial arm, River Catchment Services(RCS). These changes will allow the business to use its skilled team to increase its focus on the delivery element of projects, in addition to project management, and allows us to tender for projects beyond the Tyne catchment on a national scale, increasing our expertise in consulting and contracting on river restoration and post-flood restoration works.



# Mayfly in the classroom



Volunteer coordinator, Simone Price has been working with schools across the catchment to introduce children to the lifecycle of the Mayfly as part of the Trust's work on the 'Mayfly in the classroom project'.

The project introduces children to the lifecycle of the Mayfly and its importance in river eco-systems,

with the aim of getting children interested in the river from a young age.

Simone recently spent the day with pupils at Haltwhistle Community Campus. Year four pupils spent the morning setting up an aquaria, before



heading down to Haltwhistle Burn with their nets and wellies to collect Mayfly nymphs to bring back to hatch in the aquaria.

Simone says: "Every day the children spend a few minutes checking the temperature and food supply in their aquaria to make sure that it's right for the nymphs to hatch into Mayfly before they release them back into the burn. This is a great way for them to learn why it's important to keep our rivers at the right temperature and how everything in the river has a function.

"They particularly enjoyed getting out of the classroom and spending time on the river bank looking at all of the aquatic life in the burn."

Next year, Simone will be working with schools on the 'Salmon in the classroom' project which helps children to understand the lifecycle of the salmon; hatching their own salmon from eggs before returning them to the river.

# Trust bites

## Hexham Fish Pass: One year on

This is the first year that migrating fish have been able to use Hexham Fish Pass to make their way upstream to spawn and we're pleased to

report that good numbers of fish have been doing just that. Initial monitoring by the Environment Agency shows that the pass is being well used but it is still

possible to see the spectacular sight of leaping salmon which continues to draw crowds to Hexham Bridge.

## Tasks are picking up!



The latest addition to our team is an IZUZU pickup truck. The truck will be invaluable to transport our volunteers and tools about and help us cope with the rougher terrain in the more remote parts of the Tyne catchment. If you see us on our travels do give us, and the truck, a wave!

## Hexham Christmas Fayre

We will be at Hexham Christmas Fayre this year in the Market Place on Friday 9th December from 2 until 8. We will be promoting our activities, looking for new volunteers and selling our calendars, do come and say hello if you are out shopping.

## Easyfundraising for us this Christmas

Are you doing any of your Christmas shopping online this year? You can donate to us every time you purchase something, at no extra cost to you, by accessing your usual suppliers via the Tyne Rivers Trust Easyfundraising page: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tyneriverstrust/>. Find out more on our website and have a Happy Christmas!

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## Social media

We need less than 30 likes to reach 500 on Facebook so please make sure you have liked our page!



To keep up-to-date on our latest news and events follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Search Tyne Rivers Trust or @TyneRiversTrust