

Newsletter

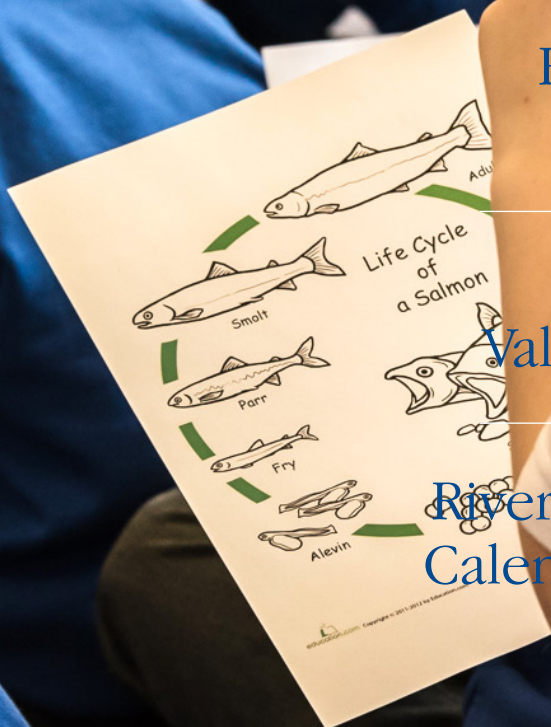
Issue 22 | Spring/Summer 2017

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Welcome

The Trust has been undergoing some changes in the last six months with the arrival of new staff, developments in our organisational structure, a new website and some work on securing the future of the Trust.

Changes in the source and availability of funding led the Trust to apply for a Resilient Heritage grant from the Heritage Lottery fund. We heard that this application was successful in March and you can find out more about this opportunity on page 4. This newsletter will be the last to be available in printed format. If you currently receive a printed copy please contact us directly or use the form enclosed to register for a digital copy.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter.



Tyne Rivers Trust team taken by Martin Farrer

There have been some staff changes recently. Susan has returned to her role as Director after maternity leave and Douglas, who acted as Interim Director in Susan's absence, is continuing with the Trust as Operations Director.

Jack Bloomer joined us in December, immediately after finishing his PhD at Southampton on salmon egg survival and has been working on a diffuse pollution project in the North Pennines.

Danielle Anderson – Walker joined in January as Farms Liaison Officer from 'Vision for Education' delivering a wide range of educational programmes to children in both primary and secondary schools. She has been working on the Ouseburn Facilitation Fund, more on page 3.

Facilitation fund Awarded



Ouseburn Farm taken by Danielle Anderson-Walker

We have recently been awarded a facilitation fund by Natural England to work with farmers and land owners in the Ouseburn catchment and beyond. So far 39 farmers have joined the group which covers an area of over 8,000 hectares but there are still opportunities for others to get involved and join in with the project.

The facilitation fund is part of the Countryside Stewardship scheme and helps land managers to improve their local environment at a landscape-scale. Our facilitation group will focus on reducing the risk of flooding, minimising

sediment movement into the water course and improving water quality. Where possible, these issues will be tackled using natural flood management techniques such as soil structure improvement, grassland management and strategic woodland schemes over the whole river corridor rather than individuals working in isolation.

The Tyne Rivers Trust facilitation group is one of the biggest in the north east and is unusual because of the Ouseburn's proximity to an urban area. This is important because urban rivers can have a huge bearing on localised flooding which frequently affects significant populations. Feedback

received by us from national and local assessors stated that our application was extremely strong. This is a very exciting opportunity for the Trust to work with the local farming community, government agencies and the wider community to find workable solutions for the catchment which will revolve around natural flood management.

Anyone who is interested in becoming part of our facilitation fund should contact Danielle Anderson-Walker on 01434 636906 or email her on d.anderson-walker@tyneriverstrust.org

Resilience for the Future



Geomorphology training taken by Simone Price

In March the Heritage Lottery Fund contacted us with the exciting news that our bid to the Resilience Fund had been successful. The purpose of this funding is to enable the Trust to prepare for the future in a climate where funding sources have changed, our role has become more delivery based and we need to identify further sources of income.

We are now using this funding in various ways including, working with two consultants to review the Trust's current activities and to create a marketing and fundraising strategy. The consultants are: Allison Thompson from Ashmore consulting who is looking into business opportunities; and Atul Srivastava from Fundraising

Consultants Limited who is looking at marketing and fundraising.

The funding will also enable Trust staff to develop the additional skills they need to carry out the recommendations made by the consultants and to expand the Trust's activities into new areas of work. Some of this training has already taken place, for example staff have attended a GIS course, geomorphological training, a flood modelling course and outdoor first aid training.

Part of the resilience process is to increase public awareness of our work and we have developed a new website as part of this goal. The new website (www.tyneriverstrust.org) incorporates a large volunteers area, is much

easier to navigate, set out areas of our work in a more comprehensive way and provide an improved portal for Tyne Angling Passport (TAP).

With the launch of the new website we are excited to be adding two extra beats to the Tyne Angling Passport thanks to the generosity of William Charlton at Hesleyside. We are enormously grateful for all beat donations to TAP, it is a fantastic opportunity for anglers to access the best beats in the catchment and raises essential funds for our work. If you are interested in talking to us about donating a beat to TAP then please call 01434 636 900 and ask for Aidan Pollard or email a.pollard@tyneriverstrust.org

Salmon in Tyne Valley's Classrooms

We have been working with several schools in our catchment to teach children about the lifecycle of Atlantic Salmon. The programme, called 'Salmon in the Classroom' allows children to see first hand the initial stages of the life cycle of Salmon and then release the juvenile fish into their local river.

'Salmon in the Classroom' is a programme designed to teach pupils about the life cycle of this iconic fish species, and how important our rivers are in providing the right habitat for their reproduction. This year Tyne Rivers Trust has delivered 'Salmon in the Classroom' to four schools in the Tyne Catchment: Ovingham Middle School, Wark First School, Bellingham Middle School and Haydon Bridge Shaftoe Primary school. The schools were carefully selected to ensure there is a suitable site nearby to release the newly hatched Salmon.

The children have been keeping an eye on the tanks and ensured the eggs had the best chance of hatching successfully by regularly checking the temperature of the water. They have also learned about the Salmon's lifecycle, what they eat and what will happen to them once released. Salmon undertake a number of physical changes as they grow, eventually adapting to life in salt water when they travel out to sea. They return to the river of their birth after several years at sea, where they spawn and produce the next generation of tiny Salmon fry. This migration



Salmon in the Classroom

is an incredibly long and risky journey and returning fish have to leap or swim past many obstacles to reach suitable spawning habitat in upland rivers. The peak of the annual migration occurs in late autumn and Hexham Bridge is one of the best places in England to see these amazing fish as they travel upstream.

This project has been made possible through funding from the Local Environment Action Fund and the Postcode Lottery and the eggs have been supplied by the Environment Agency's hatchery at Kielder.

Our Volunteer Coordinator Simone says "It's great seeing the children so excited about this project and being able to work with several schools. We hope that the project helps the children understand how important it is for our rivers to be healthy for the young Salmon to survive and create the next generation."

Simone will be taking 'Mayfly in the Classroom' into local schools over the next few weeks which allows children to see the various stages of a mayfly life cycle at close hand.

River photos for 2018 Calendar competition

We are asking photographers to enter their images of the Tyne Catchment for the 2017 photo competition. Images must have been taken this year and have the River Tyne or one of its tributaries as the subject.

The winning images will be used in our 2018 calendar, which will be sold to raise money for the Trust's work of conserving and regenerating the river. We are grateful to EGGER who will be supporting the production costs of the calendar which means that all the money raised will go directly towards our work.

The winning photographers will receive a free calendar and the overall winner will receive a one to one half day workshop with competition judge David Taylor of David Taylor Photography.

Our Director Susan Mackirdy said "This is a really fun way of using the beautiful landscape of the Tyne Catchment to raise important funds for our work. The 2017 calendar was really well received and copies were requested from places as far away as Australia and the US."

Tobias Zimmermann, EGGER Hexham Technical/Production Director said "We are delighted to provide ongoing support to the work of Tyne Rivers Trust because of our proximity to the



Tobias Zimmermann, EGGER Production Director gives competition winner Martin Farrer his calendar taken by Kirsty McNaught

Tyne at Hexham. The Trust's work to improve the condition of the river, benefits communities and businesses alike and the calendar highlights the beauty of the Tyne in all its guises."

Full details of how to enter this year's competition, images from last year's calendar and all the terms and conditions can be found on our new website (www.tyneriverstrust.org/about/news).

Last year's winner Martin Farrer said "There has been a lot of interest in my photo of Holly, my dog, taken whilst fishing the North Tyne. I spend much of my time enjoying the River, so I was delighted to win and help raise some money for the Trust to allow them to continue with improvements to water quality, removing invasive species and other environmental work on the Tyne."

Working with our Partners

Our volunteers have recently been working on a number of joint projects with partner organisations including Gateshead Countryside Service, Groundwork Northeast and Cumbria, Northumberland National Park, Newcastle City Council, National Trust, Durham Wildlife Trust, Wild Trout Trust and Axwell Park and Derwent Valley Angling Association. Some of this joint working has taken place in the Derwent Valley as part of the Land of Oak and Iron project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Joint tasks involving our volunteers and those who work with the Gateshead Countryside team started in January at Derwenthaugh park with some river restoration work, involving partially felling large trees from the river bank, hinging them and using them for bank protection. This is also called green engineering and is a sustainable way of reducing erosion. Cutting down the amount of sediment entering the water course improves water quality and biodiversity.

In February, this work continued at Derwenthaugh Park with Gateshead Countryside volunteers, this time willow spiling was made along a section of eroding bank. Willow spiling (please see the image above) is a row of posts knocked into the river bank and interwoven with willow rods to create living protection for the bank. In March, our volunteers were joined by some Axwell Park and Derwent Valley Angling Association members to tackle

more willow spiling and tree work at Derwenthaugh.

During late winter, volunteers from Tyne Rivers Trust have been carrying out walkover surveys with the Wild Trout Trust. These surveys are carried out by walking along a tributary and conducting a River Habitat Survey to identify any river restoration work which may be needed. The surveys were carried out at a number of locations in the Tyne catchment and funded by the Environment Agency and the Tyne Riparian Owners and Occupiers Association.

In early Spring, a team of our volunteers with others from Northumberland National Park worked together using funding from Natural England, to help protect the habitat of a globally important population of the cloud-living spider by replacing eroded dam structures. In the 1990s marine plywood dams were installed at Lampert Mosses to prevent the peat bogs from fragmenting and losing their peat. Now, over 20 years later, the original dams are delaminating and need to be replaced to safeguard this important habitat.

Simone, our Volunteer Coordinator, said "Reinforcing the existing dams in the ditches at Lampert Mosses benefits the Tyne as well as the cloud-living spider. The dams reduce peak flows and improve water quality by decreasing the amount of sediment reaching the river, which in turn benefits invertebrates and several species of fish."



Our volunteers have been working with a team from Groundwork NE & Cumbria at Woolsington ponds, as part of the Ouseburn River Restoration Project, funded by the Environment Agency. The task currently being carried out, is to restore the area around a remeandered tributary of the Ouseburn. This restoration has included planting and sowing wildflowers and later this year, trees will also be planted in the area.

This joint working will be continuing over the next few months with tasks planned with Newcastle and Gateshead countryside volunteers. Thanks to everyone who has participated and if you are interested in getting involved we can tailor the task to your interests, skills and availability and provide training, equipment and transport where required. Please contact Simone on s.price@tyneriverstrust.org on 01434 636902.





Remnant family after the Allendale Challenge taken by Hugo Remnant

Many thanks to the Remnant family who completed the Allendale Challenge in support of our 2017 fundraising campaign. To donate please go to the donate page on our new website www.tyneriverstrust.org/support-us.

Tyne Rivers Trust

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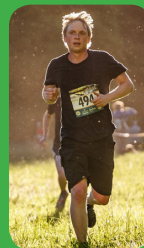
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New fundraising collection tins taken by Danielle Anderson-Walker

The trust now has a number of charity boxes placed throughout the catchment, if you do see one let us know on facebook and if you have an idea for a good location please also let us know.



We have three members of staff training for the Kielder Marathon this year. We wish them well for their preparations and lots of good luck on the day. If you would like to join them, we would love to hear from you.

Image supplied thanks to Jack Bloomer



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