the River Restoration Centre
Working to restore and enhance our rivers

Bulletin

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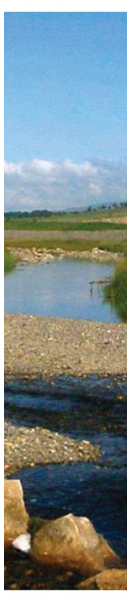

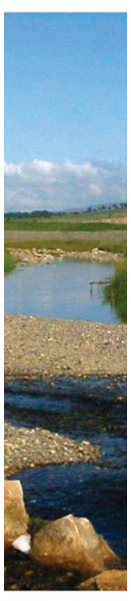

RRC Olympic Challenge - Medals Table

Competition was fierce given the calibre of projects received. Projects demonstrated a range of varying restoration approaches. At the finishing line, gold-medals were awarded to the following:

1. **Sinderland Restoration Project** - lasting more than a decade including monitoring, the Sinderland Brook project has been delivered through multiple planning phases. The long running project came first in the **Marathon** category.

Sinderland Brook restoration

2. **River Wensum Great Ryburgh Restoration** - results after one year have shown a significant improvement in terms of habitat, flow diversity and water quality. As such the Wensum project has been awarded our **Sprint** gold medal.

3. **Mayesbrook Climate Change Park Project** - involving a large and diverse partnership of public, private and voluntary organisations, taking the baton to the podium, Mayesbrook is the winner of the **Relay** with the largest project partnership.

River Wensum at Great Ryburgh

4. **Little Lever Weir Removal** - As part of a catchment-scale strategy to remove redundant structures on the River Irwell, works to aid the removal of a collapsing weir 2m in height has helped to reconnect a large section of the river. The project came first in the **High-jump** for the greatest physical barrier cleared.

5. **Lough Neas Emergency works** - This challenging reconstruction project required immediate attention following a high flow event. Including stakeholder consultation, works was completed in four days, earning the project the **Hurdling** gold medal for the greatest theoretical barrier overcome.

6. **Fobney Island** – An innovative restoration plan developed over several years aimed to establish an ecologically successful river and wetland and multi-purpose recreational area for wildlife and people. The approach and end product earned this project gold in **Freestyle**.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the challenge.

*Olympic Challenge prizes will be awarded at the **RRC 2013 Annual Network Conference**.*

RESTORE project hits new heights in the Loire

Anglo-French relations were strengthened following a RESTORE field visit to restoration sites on the Rivers Ouine, Sèvre and Moine in the Loire valley, during early October.

On the River Ouine, structures which had significantly impacted morphology and fisheries have been removed and different restoration measures including bank re-profiling and diversification of bed substrate have been trialled to assess their benefit. Water level management structures historically built to control water levels on the River Sèvre have led to fish passage issues and bed scour. At the site of an historic castle and moat, an ox-bow lake has been reconnected and a shallow backwater has been created to act as a spawning lake for coarse fish.

On the Moine, a weir was initially opened on a trial basis to identify the impact this would have on morphology. The local community were encouraged to have their say and the success of the pilot has led to the removal of six subsequent structures through the town of Cholet. This has improved the ecological value of the channel and connectivity with the floodplain has been improved.

The field visit and RESTORE project were featured in local and regional French press. Differences between UK and French river restoration and WFD working practices, more information and photos of the sites will be documented early next year. In the meantime contact RRC for more information.

CHOLET

La Moine intéresse les Anglais

Des scientifiques anglais de l'université de Cranfield ont découvert hier le nouveau cours de la Moine.

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La restauration du cours de la Moine intéresse les scientifiques anglais. Depuis jeudi, l'Institution interdépartementale du bassin de la Sèvre nantaise pilote une délégation venue de Grande-Bretagne pour découvrir le travail de restauration des cours d'eau. Vendredi matin, la délégation conduite par Jenny Mant et Nicholas Elbourne, enseignants à l'université de Cranfield spécialisés dans l'étude des milieux aquatiques, s'est rendue sur les bords de la Moine à Cholet. Au Plessis d'abord, puis à Intertade, le groupe a profité des explications de Boris Lustgarten et d'Antoine Charrier, de l'Institution interdépartementale accompagnés d'Eddie Renou, technicien de rivière et de Bernard Abélard, administrateur de la fédération de pêche des Deux-Sèvres.

Un travail mené en amont depuis dix ans

Selon Josée Peress, membre de la direction de l'Office national de l'eau et des milieux aquatiques, présente hier à Cholet, « *la délégation britannique souhaite connaître l'expérience de renaturation menée sur le bassin de la Sèvre nantaise pour en faire profiter d'autres sites en Europe* ». Les scientifiques anglais travaillent pour le projet européen « Restoring Europe's Rivers » qui encourage la restauration des cours d'eau dans plusieurs pays européens (1). « *Les problèmes liés à l'eau existent partout en Europe mais les procédures pour les résoudre ne sont pas les mêmes d'un pays à un autre. La restauration de la Sèvre nantaise nous semble intéressante par tout le travail mené en amont depuis dix ans* », explique Jenny Mant.

La Grande-Bretagne connaît les mêmes difficultés que la France pour maintenir ses eaux de surface à l'abri des pesticides. Sur la Moine, les travaux de renaturation - avec notamment la suppression des barrages - ont permis de rendre à la rivière son cours naturel. « *La Moine chante à nouveau, nous observons dès cette année une amélioration au niveau des inondations près du théâtre Interlude et la faune revient fréquenter la rivière. C'est un travail de longue haleine qui porte ses fruits* », soulignent Boris Lustgarten et Eddie Renou.

(1) **Pour en savoir plus : www.restorerivers.eu**

Cholet, bords de Moine, hier. *Les scientifiques anglais (à gauche sur la photo) entourés des représentants de l'Institution interdépartementale du bassin de la Sèvre nantaise. Photo CO - Etienne LIZAMBARD.*

The River Restoration Centre is the West Region lead organisation for the EU LIFE+ RESTORE Information and Communication project (2010-2013) which encourages the communication of sustainable river restoration best practice across Europe.

"Largest fish pass in the Midlands" opened

The Borrowash Fish Pass on the River Derwent in Derbyshire, the largest built in the Midlands region, has been officially opened.

Pauline Latham MP, Councillor Hardyal Dhindsa from Derby City Council and the Environment Agency hosted the official cutting of the ribbon and the removal of stop logs at the launch of the largest fish pass in the Midlands. This will enable fish such as eel, lamprey, salmon and sea trout to freely migrate upstream past Borrowash weir to spawning grounds using a bypass channel.

It will deliver immediate benefits to coarse fish, helping to improve the water environment and potentially open the way for the return of salmon into this catchment. The work links to a programme of works at nine weirs in the Trent and Derwent catchments being delivered in partnership between the Environment Agency, the Trent Rivers Trust and Derby City Council. The programme aims to principally restore sustainable fish populations.

Latest river announcements and events *include*:

The Linnean Society of London

THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF BRITISH RIVERS AND WATERWAYS

"ANALYSIS AND VISION"

A joint meeting by the Linnean Society of London, the Freshwater Biological Association, and the University of Southampton.

At the Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, London.

February 21st 2013, 10.00 -19.00 hrs
Including an early evening lecture by Sir John Lawton, FRS.

The recovery of rivers and waterways from pollution and physical damage in the UK has been remarkable over the past 50 years, a result of the law, research, technological advances, good regulation and inspection and economic evolution. The question is, however, can we keep up the trend in view of recession, national debt, financial stringency and the requirements for re-distribution of funding. What can we do to maintain the trends and what should we expect our rivers and waterways to be like in 2050 and beyond?

This one-day conference features senior people from academia, the regulatory agencies, charitable institutions and water users all deeply involved in the protection and improvement of UK rivers and waterways. The aim is to use glimpses of history to present a vision of the physical, chemical and biological future for Britain's rivers and canals. The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in rivers and waterways.

Speakers will include, Prof. Angela Gurnell (QMUL), Arlin Rickard (Rivers Trust), Phil Hickley (IFM), Paul Logan (EA), Isobelle Durrance (DURESS project), Paul Knight (Riverfly Partnership), Fiona Bowles (Wessex Water), Chris Horril, (RAFTS),Prof. Alan Hildrew (QMUL). The evening lecture, from 18.00 -1900 will be given by Sir John Lawton, FRS.
The cost will be £30 for delegates and refreshments are included. Please visit www.linnean.org/rivers for more information and to register for this event.

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fba Freshwater Biological Association

University of Southampton

"The history and future of British Rivers and Waterways", *a one-day open conference organized by the Linnean Society of London, the Freshwater Biological Association and the University of Southampton. The conference will discuss the future for Britain's rivers and canals from a multi-disciplinary perspective.*

Speakers will include, Professor Angela Gurnell (QMUL), Arlin Rickard (Rivers Trust), Phil Hickley (IFM), Paul Logan (EA), Isobelle Durrance (DURESS project), Paul Knight (Riverfly Partnership), Fiona Bowles (Wessex Water), Chris Horril, (RAFTS) and Professor Alan Hildrew (QMUL). The evening lecture will be given by eminent British ecologist Sir John Lawton, who is currently Vice President of the RSPB, Chair of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and a life fellow of WWF-UK.

This event will take place on 21st February 2013 at The Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, London. The cost will be £30 for delegates with refreshments included. For further information, please click here.

Visit our Website and YouTube channel. Follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter. Become a Facebook fan.

For those on LinkedIn, the 'River Restoration Professionals' group is an active forum for discussion .

If you have questions or comments, or if you would like to remove your name from our mailing list, please contact us by email: rrc@therrc.co.uk or call 01234 752979.