

Ribble Life project update

April 2012 edition

Welcome to the April edition of the Ribble Life pilot. Ribble Life is a project which focuses on the improvement of water environments in the Ribble Catchment for social and economic benefit for all.

The catchment is principally made up of the River Ribble, along with its major tributaries which include the Hodder, Calder and Darwen. At the heart of the vision is a real appetite to bring people together and make a difference to the environment and help improve people's quality of life.

The e-bulletin is sent to a variety of public, private, voluntary and community organisations throughout the Ribble Catchment.

What have we been up to?

Meeting with the National Farmers Union (NFU)

On 5th April we met up with the NFU who expressed their support for our work with Myerscough College on plans to train agricultural students on environmental management and good practice. In the next few months, we are looking to arrange environment management workshops across the catchment for land agents and farmers along with the NFU, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission.

Ribble Valley Community Voluntary Service

On 17th April we attended a Ribble Valley CVS volunteer fair in Clitheroe. The event aimed to promote volunteering opportunities within the Ribble Valley. We used the day to raise awareness of the rivers within the area and how people could get involved to look after them. A number of attendees expressed an interest in volunteering and signed up to be on the monthly volunteer mailing list.

River clean ups at Stock Beck and on the Calder

On 5th and 18th April, we held two practical clean up days involving Myerscough College students at Stock Beck and the Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Action Team in Burnley as part of the Urban River Enhancement Scheme (URES) project. If you have any ideas about river clean ups in your area just get in touch.

River Calder catchment appraisal tour



On 17th April we held a River Calder catchment appraisal tour through Burnley town centre which was attended by 12 members of the URES steering group. Some good ideas were generated for improving the river habitat and discussions took place on how it could be made into a more attractive asset for those that live and work in Burnley. Part two of this appraisal tour takes place on 3rd May and will follow the course of the River Brun through the town. You can watch a video of the tour on [YouTube](#).

What's coming up?

Launch of Ribble Life interactive action plan

We will shortly be publishing an interactive action plan for the catchment on the Ribble Life website. Where possible, we would like all interested partners to contribute to the plan.

Having an interactive online document we hope will improve the communication between partners and help facilitate better partnership working and communication among the different stakeholders involved. If you would like to know more about how you can access the interactive management plan, please get in touch.

To amend or modify the content, you will need to register online. The plan will also be accessible to the public to allow them to view and find out what is going on.

Tidal Ribble workshop

We will be holding further tidal Ribble workshops in June, date and venue to be confirmed. The last session proved to be a success as data was shared amongst partners to help deliver water quality and habitat improvements. If you want to attend the next session please contact Anne Marie Bowman on 01772 714180 or by email anne-marie.bowman@environment-agency.gov.uk

Angling workshop, Swan and Royal Pub, Clitheroe

On 12th May from 10am to 4pm, we will be hosting an Angling workshop at the Swan and Royal Pub in Clitheroe where lunch will be provided. Guest speakers include Tim Jacklin from the Wild Trout Trust and Dr Kyle Young, Fisheries Scientist. If you are an angler and would like to attend, please contact Catherine Birtwistle on 01200 444452 to book your place.

Upper Ribble Catchment appraisal tour

We will be holding another appraisal tour on 21st May, 7pm to 9.30pm, this time in the upper Ribble catchment along the main River Ribble near Stainforth. If you are a local business or community group and would be interested in taking part please get in touch.

Latest news

River Ribble is highlighted as an attraction in Settle tourism leaflet

Settle District Chamber of Trade has joined forces with the town council and local market traders to fund a new leaflet to promote the town with the Ribble being highlighted as one of the great places to visit. Copies can be downloaded from www.settle.org.uk. For more information see: http://www.cravenherald.co.uk/news/9658937.Bid_to_boost_trade_in_Settle/

Water quality grants available to farmers

Farmers from 75 areas of England including the Ribble can now apply for grants of up to £10,000 from the [Catchment Sensitive Farming \(CSF\) Capital Grants Scheme](#). The grants are available for carrying out practical works on the farm that will boost the health of England's waterways by improving water quality and reducing pollution from agricultural activity. [For more information click here:](#)

Getting in touch

If you need any information about any aspect of the project or want to get in touch please contact Jo Spencer, Ribble Life Community Engagement Officer on 01200 444452 or by email at ribblelife@ribbletrust.com. You can also visit our website at www.ribblelife.org and follow us on twitter [@RibbleLife](https://twitter.com/RibbleLife) or use the following hashtags [#RibbleLife](#) and [#loveyourrivers](#) when you're out and about in the catchment.



