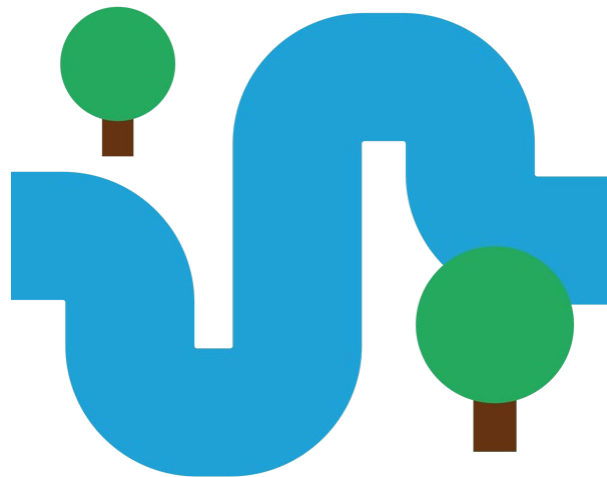


Rediscovering the River Colne



Tales of the River

Welcome to the Summer 2024 River Colne newsletter!

Hello friend,

You are receiving this email after joining the mailing list or attending a Rediscovering the River Colne and/or Tales of the River Colne project in Watford.

If you would like to receive information in a different way, please get in touch.

To unsubscribe from Groundwork East emails, please scroll to the text at the footer of this email.

What have we been up to?

Berm volunteering work



After a very wet spring and consistently high river levels, we finally managed to get volunteers in the river in June and July and installed 3 of the 4 Berms successfully. We had really lovely (if a little too hot at times!) weather each day we were out and a great team of local volunteers, allowing us to build berms that will be a valuable habitat to all sorts of aquatic life from fish to fly larvae, to riverside flowers.

The last one was due to be completed at the end of July with corporate volunteers but a period of big storms saw the river swell above safe levels again which stopped us getting in the water that day. This is being reorganised for August so watch this space.

Junior River Champions



As a part of the Rediscovering the River Colne Programme, we have visited many schools over the recent summer term. It was excellent to get school children outside near the River Colne to learn more about riverfly surveys and the species that live in our rivers. We found a range of fish, including loach and bullheads. As well as spotting Demoiselles' and of course, catching plenty of freshwater shrimp!

Upcoming Events in Watford

River Colne Coffee Evening

Join Groundwork East at Tasty Bean Cafe to discuss events and campaigns that will benefit the River Colne and celebrate it as an important asset to the town.

- 29th August 2024
- 6.30-8pm
- Tasty Bean Cafe, Oxhey Park, Watford



River Colne Coffee Evening

Join Groundwork East in Watford to discuss events and campaigns that will benefit the River Colne and celebrate it as an important asset to the town.

Thursday 29th August
6:30pm-8pm
Tasty Bean Cafe



Scan here to book!

One complimentary coffee (per person) upon arrival at the bar

For more info:

Contact emily.evans@groundwork.org.uk

Book here:

<https://shorturl.at/ciwPq>



Book Here

Tales of the River Wildplay

Learn about Watford's history and heritage through outdoor crafts and engaging activities. Suitable for ages 8 and under with their parents/guardians.

- Throughout the summer holidays
- Oxhey Activity Park, Watford

Book Here



Tales of the River Wildplay

Take part in **FREE** arts/crafts and other activities. Suitable for 8yrs and under with their parents/guardians.



River Amble - Volunteer action for wildlife

Join Groundwork for a short walk down the river Colne to learn more about recent habitat improvement works with local volunteers.

Weds 21st August, 13.00-14.00 at
Knutsford Playing Fields

Book here

What to look out for in Summer!

- Damsel and Dragonflies - Spot these brightly coloured insects darting about wetlands and woodlands. Banded demoiselles' have been spotted by the River Colne recently. The males have a metallic blue body with a dark spot on their wings. The females have metallic green body with translucent wings.
- Late-summer wildflowers - There are still flowers to see in the late summer, such as Oxeye daisy, Cornflower, Common Poppy and much more. Some of these gems can be hidden in grasslands or near arable land.



Opportunities

?? Junior River Champions

Up to an hour and a half for junior classes or community groups to help protect and restore the River Colne in Watford. With a Riverfly survey "What lurks beneath" to help monitor the health of the river by finding water invertebrates.



[Book a session](#)

?? Travelling Tales of the River Colne



Book a session

Travelling Tales is an interactive heritage tour of the River Colne, making a journey around the communities of Watford. Our aim is to engage the residents of Watford with the history of the river and emphasize the crucial role that the Colne has played in the development of the town. We are looking for adult and youth groups to engage with this Spring and Summer 2024.

?? ? Become a Walk Leader!

As part of our 'Tales of the River' project, we are looking for paid walk leaders to guide river adventures along the beautiful River Colne.

If you're ready to embark on a journey of discovery and share your love for Watford's hidden gems, we want to hear from you! Funded by [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) with thanks to National Lottery Players

Walk leaders!

Have a story to tell about Watford's natural, cultural or industrial heritage? Can you inspire others with your art, creativity or passion?

Groundwork and Watford Borough Council are looking for paid walk leaders to run river walks linked with the River Colne.

To find out more about this opportunity please contact: adam.asquith@groundwork.org.uk

Made possible with **Heritage Fund** **GROUNDWORK EAST** **WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Become a Walk Leader

We are always looking for volunteers for the River Colne Programmes. If you are interested please contact emily.evans@groundwork.org.uk .

To keep up to date with upcoming events and information, visit the programme website: <https://www.rivercolnewatford.co.uk/>

Warm Regards,

Emily Evans She/Her

Senior Project Officer (Hertfordshire)

Groundwork East

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