



June Newsletter 2018

Words from the Chair

Welcome to the Summer 2018 Newsletter.

And welcome to Eloise. Zoe will, I know, be grateful for the extra pair of hands with so much going on in the Bristol Avon Catchment.

In addition to the more routine work of commenting on the many consultation documents and advising partner organisations, the BACP Steering Group has allocated further Catchment Partnership funding to a number of new projects, and also supported partners applying for other grant funding.

A significant step forward, in the last year, has been the development of the Action Plan. This has helped the Partnership to start working towards a number of more strategic projects. These projects will typically move through a feasibility stage, will involve multiple partners and, if successful, will draw in significant funding and make major improvements within parts of the Bristol Avon Catchment.

This takes considerable time and effort from all partners - thank you for your commitment to our vision for the Bristol Avon.

Dr. Richard Cresswell MBE

Welcome to our new Catchment Partnership Apprentice!

The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership has recently recruited Eloise Hobbs through the Wessex Water Apprenticeship scheme, Eloise will be completing a 2-year NVQ Level 3 Apprenticeship in Business Administration affiliated with Weston College.

Eloise will be working with all BACP partners and supporting Zoe Hancock (Catchment Coordinator) with a range of tasks, especially helping to improve the BACP communications work in the future. Eloise is looking forward to working with all of the partners over the coming years.



Dates for the diary

3rd - 4th July 2018

All About Crayfish: Ecology, Monitoring & Conservation

The course will be held in Somerset, Cost- £250 (including lunches)

For more information and to book on please contact:

ngreencrayfish@gmail.com

01626 853890

28th June 2018 4:00-7:30pm

Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail

A community consultation event in the Children's Centre of Chew Valley School regarding a new traffic free walking and cycling route around Chew Valley Lake.

Refreshments provided.

Wednesday 7th November- Save the Date!

Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership Annual Forum 2018.

9:30am-1pm, Guildhall, Bath.

More details to follow in July.

To register an interest please email info@bristolavoncatchment.co.uk

Bristol Avon WaterBlitz 2018

The Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) is excited to announce the Bristol Avon WaterBlitz 2018, a campaign to collect as many water quality samples as possible in a week across the catchment. The WaterBlitz will run from Sat 23rd- Fri 29th June 2018. To find out more and register to take part please follow this link to the BART website:

<http://www.bristolavonriverstrust.org/the-bristol-avon-waterblitz-returns/>

By using the free and simple water testing kit, volunteers can sample their chosen river or stream in the catchment and upload the results to FreshWater Watch to compare the water quality level to other sites on the interactive results map.

Thanks to funding from the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, BART is working in partnership with FreshWater watch to engage people in citizen science to build up a wealth of research data collected by volunteers globally. Efforts to monitor and clean up rivers mean that some species such as otters and kingfishers are returning to the banks of the Avon and its tributaries.



Catchment Partnership Fund – Successful Projects in 2018

The BACP established the Catchment Partnership Fund in 2016 to help support projects that are delivering improvements to the water environment. Over the last 3 years the BACP has supported 13 projects across the catchment, ranging from small-scale river restoration projects through to the development of more strategic, partnership led business cases.

In the most recent round of funding (Phase 3- 2018/19) the BACP has been able to support the following 4 projects:

Bristol Avon WaterBlitz 2018

Please see article above. For more information and to register to take part this year please follow this link: <http://www.bristolavonriverstrust.org/the-bristol-avon-waterblitz-returns/>

Water Stories

The Bristol Natural History Consortium will be coordinating the 'Water Stories' project during 2018/19 to raise awareness and improve communications of the Bristol Avon Catchment and its important water environment and habitats. One of the main outcomes of the project will be to engage with more people, and a greater diversity of people, about the Bristol Avon Catchment and the relevant research and ongoing opportunities to collaborate across sectors.

Bydemill and South Brook Partnership Project- Scoping Study

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) is leading on the development of this project and they will continue to work with existing partners and identify new partners and resources to deliver a larger-scale, more strategic project over the next 5 years.

The aim of the project is to develop a costed business case and a refined scope for a 5-year partnership project to improve the water environment, building on the outputs of previous and existing projects in the area. A key outcome of the project will be to help existing organisations align funding opportunities with their ongoing work programmes to enable issues such as water quality, declining biodiversity and surface water flooding to be addressed in a sustainable, joined- up approach.

Somerset Frome Partnership Project- Development of a Business Case

The Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW) are leading on the development of this project. Building on the previous projects that have been completed in the Somerset Frome sub-catchment, this is an initial scoping study to help develop a larger, more strategic Somerset Frome Partnership Project, which will address: reduction to surface water flooding; better land management to reduce nutrient and sediments into watercourses; improved in-channel and marginal riverine habitats; improved fish passage; tackling Invasive non-native species.

For more information on any of the projects mentioned above or previously delivered via the Catchment Partnership Fund please contact the BACP Catchment Coordinator: zoe.hancock@wessexwater.co.uk

Development of BACP Action Plan

Following on from the workshops that the BACP hosted in November 2017, the Catchment Coordinator has been engaged with key delivery partners to develop a BACP Action Plan.

The Action Plan will be displayed via an online 'Projects Map' and all projects included in the Action Plan will be reviewed annually by the BACP Steering Group. All projects included in the Action Plan meet the following criteria and must demonstrate the following:

- Delivers improvements to improve the water environment- all projects align with the 7 Catchment Goals outlined in Catchment Plan which can be found on our website <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/bristolavon/>.
- Developed and delivered using partnership approach- (Open, transparent approach, providing links to local community where appropriate)
- Multiple organisations collaborating- (More than 1 partner involved, alignment of work programmes and funding)
- Multiple benefit project- (demonstrate that the project will address more than one water based issue)

The aim is to launch the Action Plan 'Projects Map' at the BACP Annual Forum on Wednesday 7th November. If you have any questions about any of the partnership projects in the Bristol Avon Catchment please email:

info@bristolavoncatchment.co.uk

Other Partnership Projects in the Bristol Avon Catchment

Defra – Water Environment Grant Fund

Defra opened a new fund in March 2018 called the 'Water Environment Grant', this fund is aimed at supporting partnership projects that improve the water environment in rural areas of the catchment. Three partnership bids were submitted by 11th May and we will hear if these applications have been successful in August 2018. The projects submitted in the Bristol Avon Catchment were:

- Laddon Brook Natural Flood Management and Diffuse Pollution Project (Bristol Frome sub-catchment)
- Somerset Frome Restoration Project
- Nailsea Multi-Functional Constructed Wetland Feasibility Project (North Somerset)

For more information about these bids please contact the Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator:
heather.l.barker@environment-agency.gov.uk



**Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs**

Environment Agency – Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF)

Various partners in the BACP have been working with the EA to develop up projects to deliver improvements to address Water Framework Directive (WFD) issues/failures identified in the catchment. Three projects have secured funding via the WEIF in May 2018, these include:

- Semington Brook Improvement Project- led by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Wellow & Cam Initiative- led by Bristol Avon Rivers Trust
- Chipping Sodbury Habitat Improvement Project- led by Wild Trout Trust

These projects will be delivering improvements during 2018/19. For more information please contact the Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator: heather.l.barker@environment-agency.gov.uk



**Environment
Agency**

Collaborative Public Health Project

Wessex Water is working in partnership on a Public Health Project in Bath & North-East Somerset to investigate sustainable options for reducing the amount of pharmaceuticals in the environment.

General trends show an increase in the number of people taking medicines for a wide range of factors. There is now a growing concern about the impact of the pharmaceuticals on the health of the environment especially regarding degradability, bioaccumulation and long-term environmental effects.

The project is focusing on two aspects: the use of social prescribing and the disposal of unused medicines. Social prescribing provides GPs with a non-medical referral option that can operate alongside existing treatments to improve health and wellbeing. One of the aims of the project is to understand if social prescribing can reduce pharmaceutical use.

For more information about this project please email: env.info@wessexwater.co.uk or visit the Wessex Water website: www.wessexwater.co.uk



[Read More HERE](#)

Great Flood Commemorations in the Chew Valley (Remembering the Past, Preparing for the Future)



Photos:

The A37 bridge at Pensford, the day after the Flood. © Jane Flower

The damaged old bridge at the heart of Pensford village 11 July 1968 © Jane Flower

Throughout 2018, West of England Rural Network (WERN) is supporting communities along the Chew Valley and Keynsham in commemorative activities in this 50th year since the Great Flood of 10 & 11 July 1968. WERN is also supporting these communities towards better flood resilience going forward.

Among the commemorative activities planned are photographic displays, musical performances, some amazing visualisations, remembrance services and giving thanks to the individuals, emergency and civil services that swiftly came to the rescue. Some helped clean up, some built temporary Bailey Bridges and others organised soup kitchens.

To find out more about what's planned for where and when, please visit:

<http://www.wern.org.uk/great-flood/commemoration-events>

or email: ruth@wern.org.uk

Information and General Updates

Update on Natural Capital Approach Pilot

A workshop was organised on 6th March 2018 by the Environment Agency to engage with stakeholders in the Bristol Avon Catchment to discuss the Natural Capital Approach (NCA) that is currently being developed and piloted by the EA's national team. The aim of the NCA is to help answer that all-important question – what difference does an integrated and natural capital focused approach make to our planning processes and the environmental outcomes?

At the workshop a decision was taken to develop a natural capital focused set of environmental solutions. The new measures discussed will be appraised against existing and planned measures for the catchment. A strong case has been made for conducting a trial for the natural capital focused set of environmental solutions in the Bristol Frome sub-catchment. Work has previously been done with the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to identify key topics to work on in this part of the catchment.

For more information please contact: zoe.hancock@wessexwater.co.uk

Defra- Evidence Directory 'Working with Natural Processes'

Please see the links below for the relevant information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-with-natural-processes-to-reduce-flood-risk>

<http://wwnp.jbahosting.com/>

News on the Water Space Study

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/river-safety/rivers-canal/water-space-study>

The Waterbike Collective

The Waterbike Collective is a 1000-mile community adventure to reduce the amount of litter in water bodies across the country. The aim is to collect one million pieces of litter on the journey along the canals as well as to help people engage with the environment.

To read more and track the journey please follow the link:

<https://sayesmore.com/waterbikecollective>

River Restoration Traineeship

The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are offering a 12-month funded Traineeship within their team. Read more on their website:

<https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/river-restoration-traineeship>

WaterCog Water Management

Have your say on your involvement in water management

Have you heard of WaterCoG? It's an EU-funded international project looking at how water is managed, sharing knowledge and striving for a balance between top-down and bottom-up. The Rivers Trust is a key partner, and as part of it, we want to gather as many views as possible from the wide variety of people involved.

A questionnaire (on the [WaterCoG](#) website) is now being run across all countries involved in the project until **Friday 29th of June**. The results will not only be used as part of the project, but for the first time ever, we'll have a snapshot of the opinions of a massive pool of users, to help steer how we manage water here in the UK.

The questionnaire itself only takes a few minutes to complete. We really want as many people as possible to take part.

For any queries, please contact Barry Bendall: Barry@theriverstrust.org

Talking Trees Public Engagement

Talking Trees is a new and exciting public engagement campaign that is calling on Bristol residents and businesses to celebrate urban trees and to promote and support a new target to double the existing canopy cover in Bristol by 2050.

Supporting the new target involves sharing a tree selfie and tagging #TalkingTreesBristol, by planting or sponsoring a tree, by volunteering, or by signing the Tree Charter.

You can find out more by viewing the website or by viewing this document --->
<http://www.talkingtreesbristol.co.uk/>

Read More [HERE](#)

