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Dear Friends,

Launching our Big Ranunculus Watch

Thank you to everyone who responded to our last email by sending old photos of the Wye brimming with water crowfoot. These collective memories are vital. It's so powerful to understand what we've lost, but also to help us envision what we could have again.

So, we want to make this bigger! We've set up a google form so you can submit your images of ranunculus in the Wye. Please could you search through your photo albums and look out for the fronds and flowers in the river? If you find any images, we'd love you to share them with us, telling us where each picture was taken and when. We want to map the ranunculus across the catchment through time.

We're also eager to track where there's ranunculus now, so we can better understand what factors may help determine its recovery. If you see ranunculus in the Wye catchment, please take a photo and let us know via the form.

We're so grateful to all of our citizen scientists who already report sightings of this river plant - and we'd love the support of the wider community to expand our knowledge. Please can you share this request with your friends, neighbours and colleagues in the catchment? The more photos we get, past and present, the richer our understanding will be.

Please submit your images to our Big Ranunculus Watch google form here

The Welsh poet Robert Minhinnick wrote a poem about the ranunculus in the Wye, which included the verse:

It's not long since
we could walk on water,

over mattresses of crowfoot
like buttercups in a flooded field.



Thanks to Pat Stirling for this image of ranunculus at Eardisland in June 2023.

Demand a Clean Water Bill for Wales

Our friends at Save the River Usk have just launched a petition to the Senedd calling for a Clean Water Bill for Wales and they'd love your support.

You can read more about it and sign here.

Round-Up of Recent Events

Thanks to all who came to our citizen science evening in Monmouth last month. There was a good write-up in local newspapers, including the Monmouth Beacon, Ross Gazette and Abergavenny Chronicle. It was great to

hear citizen scientists speak passionately and knowledgeably about their own river, to understand the story of a tributary through their eyes and to learn from their observations. It was also uplifting to hear from students at Haberdashers School about their positive experiences getting involved with river testing.

Thanks to Save the Wye for organising the Riversong event in Ross. It was a joy to hear the climate choirs singing by the river, in the presence of the Goddess, and many powerful new connections were forged. Our brilliant volunteer coordinator Annys was there to explain the work of our citizen science project. Here's a lovely five minute film which captured the day.

The Hay Festival helped entice some famous faces to the shores of the Wye to aid us in our struggle for clean rivers. We had the opportunity to spend a few hours with Robert Macfarlane, before he went on stage to discuss his new book Is a River Alive?



From left to right: Our Citizen Science Programme Manager Pat Stirling, 'Lady Wye' Vey Straker, Robert Macfarlane and 'Voice of the River Wye' Louise Bodnar. Photo credit: Eamon Bourke.

We were also part of an extraordinary ceremony and groundbreaking discussion at the Warren in Hay on the 1st June, with two lawyers who are at the vanguard of the rights of nature movement (Monica Feria-Tinta and Paul Powlesland) as well as the official 'Voice of the River Wye' (Louise Bodnar) to discuss how we could change the law to better protect the natural world. Nicola Cutcher has a short write-up of the event on her website. The subsequent talk, 'Nature: The Fight for Justice', is available to listen to via the Hay Festival Anytime player.



Photo credit: Eamon Bourke

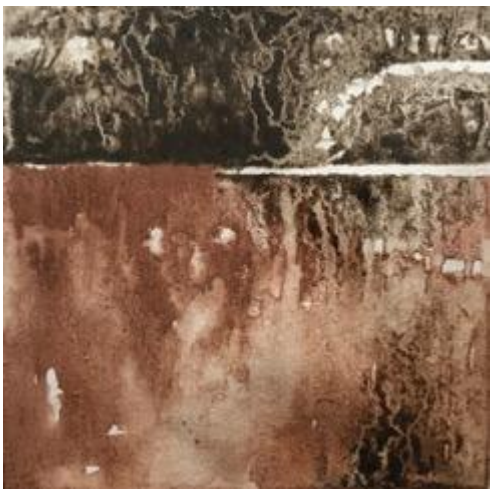
Funding from the National Lottery

We're delighted and very grateful to have received grants from the National Lottery Community Fund for us to do outreach work in both England and Wales. This funding will enable us to have a presence at more community events and festivals over the next couple of years, working to raise awareness of the plight of the river, whilst also trying to inspire and empower more people to become river guardians and get involved in actively helping to protect and

restore the Wye.

Notes on a River: Afon Llynfi

Artist Beverley Thornley's beautiful book is now available to buy in even more locations. Beverley's placed copies in the Found Gallery in Brecon, the Hours Bookshop in Brecon, Penpont Shop and Llangorse Community Shop, as well as Green Ink Books in Hay. Beverley is selling the book for £10 and kindly donating all profits to Friends of the River Wye.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Midsummer Meadows Gathering - Bartonsham Meadows, Saturday 21st June, 2pm-6pm

Arts&Heritage and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust are holding a Midsummer Meadows Gathering to mark the longest day of the year and to celebrate and explore the beautiful Bartonsham Meadows through art and creativity. This is a community gathering and an opportunity to discover how you can get involved in nature restoration just ten minutes walk from Hereford city centre. Bring a picnic or enjoy tea and cake available on site. There will be free stalls and hands-on activities suitable for all ages.

Leominster Summer Solstice - Saturday 21st June, 3pm-5pm



Outdoor Open Mic
Celebrating the Rivers of the Marches in words & music

3-5pm, Saturday 21st June 2025
at the standing stones on Leominster Millennium Green
What 3 words: below.piglet.trembles

Bring songs, poems, stories, your own or old favourites, and a picnic blanket or folding chair. All welcome!

Lugg Teme Wye Lye Pinsley Onny Clun Kenwater Camlad Kemp Dore Ridgemoor Arrow Stretford Unk Hindwell Cascob Norton Lime Frome Sapey Leigh Laughern Monnow Pentaloe Corve Rea Ledwyche Kyre and all the unnamed steramlets and springs...

uninvisible71@gmail.com

Beth Nawr? Now What? Festival - Saturday 5th July, Talgarth

A micro-festival nestled in the hills of Bannau Brycheiniog, hosted by Black Mountains College. Unlock your capacity to create a future in which people and the planet can thrive.

Our planet is in crisis. So, we are asking, Beth Nawr? (Now What? in Welsh).

This festival brings together community builders and activists, farmers, artists, politicians, food leaders and many more all pioneering practical systems change across the UK and internationally.

Through a day of interactive sessions, explore how they are doing it and how you too can help leverage change in small and big ways to build a more just and regenerative society.

Workshops will be running all day, with live music at Trigg's Cafe in the evening and an informal campfire social.

Find the whole programme online, including a workshop on 'How to Protect our Rivers' with Paul Powlesland and Nicola Cutcher.



Bromyard MAD Show - Saturday 5th July

Join the Goddess of the Wye and learn about how you can make a difference. Find out more about the Bromyard Make A Difference Show online.

Thanks for all your support!

Friends of the River Wye

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