

The River Crouch Conservation Trust Est. 2009

Friends of the river bank:

Roy H. Hart
Peter Steward
Steven Westall

Affiliated to the Angling Trust of Great Britain

R.C.C.T

A dead dog, a Zimmer frame and five shopping trolleys were among items volunteers hauled from the River Crouch in Wickford.

Members of the River Crouch Conservation Trust descended on the banks of the river at Wickford Memorial Park, with more than 20 tackling log jams and discarded garbage.

Roy Hart, Chairman of the trust said: "Sunday was a very successful. The sun was out and shining and we had to work around the tides. There were two willow trees that had fallen across the river and we had to cut them down and hurl them up the river bank. We found a dead dog, tyres and four or five shopping trolleys. There were also 400 plastic and glass bottles. We have cleaned the upper section of the river, which we are proud of."

Roy, 69, who lives in Battlesbridge, is pleased to have so many people behind each of the projects the group gets involved with. He said, "The people who helped out were totally voluntarily which, in this day and age, is strange. Some of those who turned up, come every single time, and I take them for a Christmas dinner every year." Roy's love for nature led him to repopulate the Crouch with several species and having already introduced salmon to the stream, he now has plans to rehome 6,000 tiny eels. He said: "Years and years ago I put 5,000 small salmon in the river at the top of Wickford in Runwell, and out of the 5,000 only six came back. It was very good.

I am going to be in Clitheroe and on the way back I will be picking up 6,000 Elver eels from near the River Severn. The Environment Agency told me to put the Elvers in the head water, as they would be eaten by the fish further down".

Roy mentioned the river is now thriving with wildlife as a result of the Trust's efforts. He said, "I was fishing in the river last September and it was the first time I had ever seen an otter."

Trevor Faulkner, one of the group's volunteers, is committed to making sure the river is a better and cleaner place and is proud of Wickford's waterway. He said, "The River Crouch Conservation Trust is dedicated to keeping this river clean for the benefit of Wickford and all park users. We want to make this a pleasant place to visit. We will fight to save this river from pollution and force prosecutions when necessary. The river has become a hotspot for river life and the work carried out by Trevor and his fellow volunteers have enabled the wildlife to thrive." He added, "The River is now teeming with life in the water and on the banks. We have made much headway and we are determined to keep it that way."

Roy H. Hart,

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