

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



View from the bridge April 29th 2018

6:30am, got dressed with a thick pullover and quilted jacket as the weather was cold and overcast. Loaded the company van with rope, boots, first aid kit, a gallon kettle and stove etc. first problem, my park keys did not fit the lock to the memorial park gates. Drove round to the south entrance and through the park to the inside gates, van got stuck in soft soil. I did get Andrew weeks down with his land rover, which was extremely kind of him.

30 volunteers turned up at 9am, many new faces especially from Wickford Wombles. I split them into 2 groups. One group head east litter picking with Paul Thwaites in chest waders in the river. Mission to remove the Himalayan balsam from areas near the 3 arch rail bridge over ½ mile away. This section of the river is now so clean, it was void of litter, not even a 'dog end' and it is now thriving with fish from brown trout, roach chub. Peter Stewart even found a 'stone loach' considering what the river was like 10 years ago, just see the photos on the website. Many sacks of rubbish were collected by the group, I transported the rubbish and many volunteers back to the park café in the van. Two of the team found 1 tractor tyre in the bed of the river, managed to pull it out and the two of them wheeled it back for 750 yards, that's dedication.

The group who headed to Wickford town found much rubbish in the river section near new kingdom hall, who kindly allowed us to load up in their car park and they proceeded all the way up to the old London road, many had chest waders. Peter Steward pulling a very large branch out of the river. The branch snapped off and Peter went into the river, but he still continued to the end with a change of clothing and a hot drink. The trust members do not give up easily! Well in the end we pulled out 10 shopping trollies with handles, proclaiming Iceland and aldi and about sixty sacks of rubbish.

After many journeys back and forth to the park compound which Basildon parks allows us to use on 2 occasions per year. The use of this facility is a tremendous asset for which we thank them.

Our next work party on the river will take place on the 30th September 2018. Have a wonderful summer.

Yours very sincerely

Roy