

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

River Crouch Conservation Trust

View from the bridge - 24/10/16 The October clean up!

We were getting ready for the work party, and on loading the workboat onto our 5-tonne grain trailer, the boat swung towards me. It was on a rope and a small mobile crane. I stepped back quickly and tripped, my leg tried to come out of its socket. Thus, I did not feel up to the work party the next morning!!

On our last work party in the spring, we had eighty people turn up including two cub groups.....it was a splendid and successful day. This Sunday, we had approximately twenty, as there was a date change but still we had a great day.

We were working from 9am until 2.00pm and the Memorial Park is now almost totally clear. We found two tyres, much wood, plastic bottles and crisp packets etc. Four truckloads of rubbish were taken to the park compound on Trevor's truck. We had our chainsaw team, including three professionals who had to clear very large trees which had fallen across the river. The trees would have created a great log jam and flooding. You can see the size of the trees on our website River Crouch Conservation Trust. The big problem is that the trees were planted so their roots would stabilise the river bank. Some of the remaining trees are 40ft high and very heavy, they are starting to collapse across the river – we are talking some 200 trees. We do our best as a work party but this is a job for contractors. I will contact the relevant people regarding this.

I spent most of the work party litter picking and serving hot chocolate, Bovril and mince pies etc. I enjoy litter picking, every bottle I pick up I look upon as a prize.

We saw plenty of wildlife on Sunday including two Kingfishers, one grey squirrel, two moorhens and small shoals of fish. The Himalayan Balsam we cleared early last appears to have vanished. We did however find a lady's handbag. Inside were various items including a set of keys and a library membership. We have posted this on Facebook and hopefully the lady will come forward and be happy we found it.

The next work party will be in mid-April 2017. River areas outside of the park are now being considered i.e. East of Three Arches Railway Bridge and Battlesbridge.

For everyone who attended the work party, a big thank you. What's more, the warm sun shone all day.

Yours very sincerely,

Roy Hart

