

The River Crouch Conservation Trust

A View from the River



Please note the next River clean-up work party will be **Sunday 4th October 2015**.

We will meet up at the Memorial Park main gates at 0900hrs, and will finish around 1300hrs. Please bring wellington boots or chest waders and gloves. Bin sacks and light refreshments will be provided. Let's hope the weather is kind, and look out for the green tractor!

A summary of the year so far.....

The spring work party in April had an excellent turn out with an age range of 85 years of age down to 10 years of age. In total we had 28 volunteers. Trevor Faulkner's truck played a very important part as with the kind permission of the parks department who allowed us to put the large piles of rubbish in their compound. The usual bikes, prams, tyres and carpets were found in the river.

Some very large trees had fallen across the river but thanks to Chris Hall with his very sharp chainsaw, we managed to clear four large trees, and release the log jam they were creating. If left, they would bring the level of the river dangerously high during flood conditions.

All in all it was a splendid work party so thank you all!

The summer work party was amazing; we had 30 volunteers come down for the day. From the Ford Motor Co. Terry Joyce and Trevor Faulkner oversaw the group. They not only collected vast amounts of rubbish in the long meadow area, but cut away and improved the public footpaths. This was a great team effort, and once again, thank you to Basildon Council for allowing us to use the waste compound on this clean up.

Many fish were seen, more importantly lots of elvers and large eels, (for which I will inform the Environment Agency), believe it or not, eels are one of the most endangered species on the planet along with the giant pander!

Thank you Messer's Fords and all the volunteers – it will be good to see you all again.

On a planning front, I am still trying to get Chelmsford City Council to rethink the disposal of the sewage discharge from the extra 640 houses, a hospital and a secure prison at Runwell. It is currently intended that it will be sent down a large discharge pipe to Southlands Pumping Station and then 200 yards to the Shotgate Works. The fall from Runwell is approximately 75ft. The back pressure will be enormous. The pumping station already has a bad track record for breaking down. If this was to happen again it would cause horrendous pollution downstream of the works. This will wipe out fish, wildlife and also the mussel, oyster and clam beds. Knowing Anglian Waters extremely bad record for polluting the River Crouch, I and many others will be terribly upset should this happen.

I am writing to the House of Commons next week.

Yours very sincerely,
Councillor Roy Hart R.C.C.T