

The River Crouch Conservation Trust Est. 2009

Friends of the river bank:

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River Crouch Conservation Trust

Spring Work party 2021

The object of the day was to do a complete survey of the concrete section of the River Crouch through Wickford, clear a number of shopping trolleys from the Kingdom hall Section and finally sweep through the entire park.

I arrived at 8.35 am, on Sunday 27th April, with the firm's van with a large car trailer hooked on the back, it is 18 foot long. Luckily the park keeper opened the main gates for me. By the meeting time of 9am we had 29 volunteers, made up of some of our faithful Trustees, plus a large number of Wickford Wombles, another voluntary group who are dedicated in keeping Wickford litter free, and they do a grand job too!

How the day progressed, Terry Joyce did the survey of the cut, starting at 7am and declared it was almost clear, the reason, we have had some torrential rain and the river in high flood, had washed all the rubbish clear. Well done.

Kingdom hall, was locked due to Covid 19 lockdown restrictions, I believe. We then split the group in two, one part of the group walked right down to the three arch rail bridge and went half way up the stream to the middle point of the park. Litter pickers combed the top part of the bank and river pickers worked with chest waders, and bank helpers cut down brambles etc. To make a footpath, cycleway and hauled on a long rope, tree trunks and blockages on the river, tyres, old timber and flood rubbish.

The second group carried out similar projects from the Manorial gates up stream. All along the river side. piles of rubbish were collected from the mid-point, in a few round trips and deposited in the parks rubbish compound. There was a very welcome refreshment brake, hot coffee, Bovril, Chocolate, Tea and savoury snacks. We all departed happy. The Himalayan Balsam weed which we cleared last autumn, a considerable load, appears not to have returned in any numbers.

There was a previous river clean up at Battlesbridge, 30 large sacks of plastic bottles were collected on the tide line. Next work party October. Check on Facebook etc.

To all the volunteers thank you so much,

Roy

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