

# The River Crouch Conservation Trust

20<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Well as you all know the last pollution case when the Long Meadow Pumping Station packed up in Wickford flooding the High Street with sewages and decimate fish stocks around the memorial park main gates off the Runwell Road. I am sure if it were not for our Trust pushing Anglian Water and The Environment Agency it would have all been swept under the carpet. AWA were fined £50,000 and ordered to restock the river with £500 of fish. Their plead was that a bird sitting on the wires could have attributed the electrics at the pumping station throwing the trip switch. The fine was far too small. What was amazing in that small stretch, there was over 1,500 fish. I told the judge afterwards what really happened and the court paid all my expenses.



There were two more discharges kitchen rolls blocking feeder pipes to the main pumping station. Peter Steward and myself located the problems within one hour.

Last week May 14<sup>th</sup> Rettendon Brook had a discharge due to a collapsed main sewer pipe this has now been fixed and there was a discharge on the north bank of the river crouch near the nature reserve. This has been rectified.

I really feel very sorry for the river crouch, its fish and wildlife, if it's not Anglian Water trying to wipe the fish life out due to putting profits before infrastructure, it's the seals coming up stream and the cormorants don't help. But our little group about 30 members will carry on pulling tyres, shopping trolleys, old bikes and beds out of the river with our work parties. I will keep the authorities on their toes.

I have learnt a lot over the years in prosecuting the water companies.

Our two work parties will be:

First work party Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May starting around 9am 100yards of the main gates look for the green tractor. Bring gloves, boots, waders light refreshments will be provided leave when you feel like it all help is really appreciated.

Second work party Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October same format as above.

Christmas Party Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December in the Hawk Inn at Battlesbridge we have our own table. The food is all on me and you just pay for your drinks. Do come it's a very enjoyable evening arrive about 8pm

If any one sees any pollution or dead fish ring me on 01268 768282 or Peter on 0770994279

Anyone wishing to help clean the river will be most welcome just ring the above telephone numbers.

Yours very sincerely

Roy Hart