

What's Beane Happening?

The newsletter of The River Beane Restoration Association
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Welcome

It was the evening of October 9th and my wife and I set off for Hertford at 6.40 pm thinking that that we would have plenty of time to get there by 7.30 pm. At 7.25pm we crawled past the entrance to The Hertford Theatre in a slow moving traffic jam and were astonished to see the foyer packed with people. I'm sure many people reading this were there (having sensibly allowed more time to travel and park) and like us (when we eventually got there) were very appreciative of the warm welcome we received from our RBRA badged hosts. Professionally produced posters and fliers helped to introduce the message of the film and after light refreshments we made our way into the auditorium...

In this Issue

- The world premiere of 'On the Banks of the Beane'
- An Award for the RBRA
- NB Other issues will be reported in our regular Autumn Issue which will be circulated shortly.

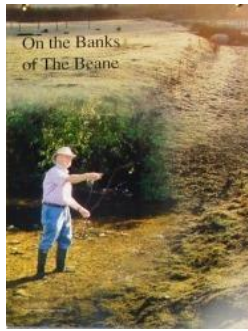
Memories from the premiere of 'The Banks of the Beane'

From this...



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To this...



I'm sure that most people reading this newsletter know that the RBRA have been campaigning for over twenty years to get a flow of water back in the river. There were many reports and false dawns along the way yet nothing happened. So to spread the word more widely we produced a film in collaboration with the **University of Hertfordshire** entitled '**On the Banks of The Beane**'. It tells our story and is a warning to everyone to look after what you cherish.

The film was shown for the first time in the Hertford Theatre. We heard about the childhood memories of older residents; ecological dilemmas; future utility plans and the confused politics of managing our regional water supply. It's a worrying heritage tale that must be shared. Luckily, during the course of filming, we were given a promise of significant abstraction reduction by 2018 (*see our last newsletter*) so we were able to film a new and more optimistic ending. Most of the audience were invited, but about 150 tickets were made available to the general public and these quickly sold out with the theatre reporting a huge waiting list for returned tickets. In fact they have suggested that we show the film again! After the film had finished Dave Simpson chaired a panel including Howard Berry, the film's director, and representatives from The Environment Agency, Affinity Water, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and an aquatic ecologist. The people present had many questions, and although some were understandably sceptical, most were enthusiastic and I think we can safely say that the film has achieved its objective. It has already been shown to the Hertford Civic Society and bookings are being taken to show it to schools and community groups. If anyone would like a film show please contact us via our new website at www.riverbeane.org.uk. DVDs are also available containing bonus footage of the recording of the title song '*On the Banks of the Beane*' and the stills shown at the beginning of the screening. Some people have asked if they can purchase a recording of the title song. It will, of course, be on the DVD and will also be included on an album currently being recorded by Jim Coombes and Phil Hewett which should be available early in the new year. All profits from the album will be donated to the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Essex Wildlife Trust. (*More information in the winter newsletter*)

The film wouldn't have happened without the generous sponsorship of Aston Parish Council, Aston Village Society, East Herts Council, Hertford Civic Society, Herts County Council, Stapleford Parish Council, Walkern Parish Council and Watton at Stone Parish Council. Our thanks to you all.

Since screening the film, in recognition of the contribution the film makes in raising rural issues awareness, we have been given a **Rural Living Award** by the **Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)**. The award ceremony was held at County Hall. Our particular award was sponsored by the Hertfordshire Mercury and was presented to our chairman, Dave Stimpson, by the editor, Julie Palmer. Dave said, 'It was really quite an eye-opener to be in such company and it was a bit humbling. The film was a big commitment and I want to thank everyone involved.'



Exciting river restoration work has already begun! Don't forget to visit our website at www.riverbeane.org.uk or more information and you can also use it to contact us.

