

What's Beane Happening?

The newsletter of The River Beane Restoration Association
Issue No 10• Summer 2015



Welcome

After a chilly spring we are now hoping to enjoy the warmer weather of summer. The RBRA has been busy, and as you will see from this news letter, is becoming more active as it moves from being a campaigning organization to one that promotes the benefits of the river to its local communities and also engages in practical conservation.



The most recent activity was an introduction to riverfly sampling at Waterford Marsh which took place on the 6th June. The activity was introduced to three novices (and a herd of cattle!) and we had a chance to chat to **David Johnson the new Living Rivers Officer**.

The RBRA Children's Painting Competition 2015

We ran a painting competition over the Easter holidays and were delighted with the high standard of entries in all age groups. All the paintings submitted were on display at Watton Church Fete on bank holiday Monday, and we hope to exhibit the entries at other Beane Valley village fetes including Aston Fair (5th July) and Waterford Village Fete (6th September). Our thanks to all participants and congratulations to the winning entries which are reproduced below.



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AGM

Wednesday 15th July

This will start at 8.00pm in the
Watton at Stone Memorial
Hall.

All are welcome

**Age Group One (reception +
years 1 & 2)**

*Jie Senna Jordan, Walkern
primary School.*

Age Group Two (years 3 & 4)

*Sophie Christen, Mill Mead
Primary School*



Age Group Three
(years 5&6)

Kitty Bennet, Mill Mead
Primary School

The LammaProject

This involves the introduction of native species along the river bank to replace 'invaders' like Himalayan Balsam.

Our three sites on the Beane at Watton at Stone are developing slowly. Many of the plants we put in last year are flourishing but a full evaluation will take place in autumn..

Tree lopping carried out by the Parish Council has had a noticeable beneficial effect on river bank plant growth.

Discover the Beautiful Beane! *(We are organizing two events so that people can enjoy the rights of way and permissive ways that enable you to walk almost the entire length of the Beane.)*

River Walk 1 – Lower River, Watton to Hertford on July 25th. The first event will be a walk from Watton at Stone along the river to Hertford. For those who don't know it, this is a lovely stretch of river and is about 4 miles. We propose to meet in Watton at Stone by the war memorial at 10am, walk along the river to Hertford ending near Hertford North Station. We will then return either by bus or by train to Watton. If time allows we might pop into the Millstream pub for a glass before coming back. An alternative start for those wishing to walk a shorter distance is Stapleford near the church. We should arrive there between 11 and 11.30.

River Walk 2 – Upper River, Whitehall Pump Station near Aston to Walkern 5th September. The second event is another walk planned for 5th September. This time from the Whitehall Pump Station near Aston to Walkern, This will be about three miles along the upper river, meeting at 10 am at Whitehall Ford and ending at the Walkern Brewery Tea Rooms at 198 High Street, opposite the School. Yes, Walkern had a brewery; the buildings are still there but are now residences. The café is in what was the garage of the brewery manager's house and if you don't know this venue, it is a real treasure. We have permission to use a nearby farmyard for car parking at the start and we will put signs up to show where it is. We will arrange transport back to the start so people can pick their cars up.

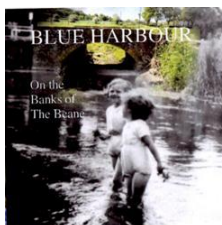
Film shows

We promised our sponsors that we would not only show the film at the Hertford Theatre, which we did last October, but would continue to show it around the district. Since our last newsletter we have shown our film 'On the Banks of the Beane' in Aston, Waterford and Walkern, and these went very well. The next film show is likely to be in Benington, but the date is not yet arranged. The Ware and Hertford Historic Society have booked a film show for 10th September.

Village Fetes

We have begun attending village fetes, and these are attracting interest. We had a stall at the Watton at Stone Fete, and this went very well. We intend to be at the Aston Fete on 5th July and the Waterford Fete on 6th September.

Merchandise



Show your support for The Beane by purchasing our new RBRA car sticker (our logo + web address). It can go where your tax disc used to be. £1.50 including postage available through the 'contact us' link on the web site.

Some people have inquired about purchasing the title song from our film 'On the Banks of the Beane'. This is now available on an album together with 9 other songs released by 'Blue Harbour' (Phil and Jim). It costs just £6 including postage and is also available through the 'contact us' link. All proceeds are being donated to the Herts and Middlesex and the Essex Wildlife Trusts. A reminder that the DVDs are also still available through the website.

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