

RIVER DOUR

— Jeremy Cope —

The Dour Steering Group held a meeting in April at which interested groups could exchange views and news. It was an ideal opportunity to lobby the Environment Agency which is the body that carries the underlying responsibility for the river. The principal issues that arose were:-

The Environment Agency has only minimal funding but they are working to do the best they can. I always get the impression of people trying their very best to make the most of what is available. There is a concern that Crabble Corn Mill pond is silting up and will, in the near future, cease to hold water, but again there appears to be no funding available to deal with dredging. There was call for deterrent fines against litter dumping - something we could well do with throughout the town.

A sewage leak into the river at Morrison's had been reported and subsequent to the meeting litter clearance work had stopped in the river lower down as too dangerous. I understand the leak has been located and trust is now mended.

Of course the drought measures were discussed at the time when we were in the middle of a very wet April. The rain has to fall at the right time of the year (winter) if it is to replenish the aquifers but that's our British weather. I notice a healthy flow in the Dour - long may it continue.

Finally White Cliffs Countryside Project has started the litter clearance of the river following the end of the spawning season - if you wish to help I can supply details or you can contact the Project on 01304 241806. On a personal note I think arthritis will limit my involvement for which I am very sorry. The river is such a worthwhile project.

We are also losing Derek Leach as our Chairman, unsurprisingly due to the manifold demands on his time. Derek is always an effective Chairman and will be missed.

Dates for Dour Working Parties 2012

Friday July 27
Friday August 24
Friday September 28
Friday October 26

The start will be at Buckland Bridge. If you are driving there is a small parking area off Buckland Avenue or in Crabble Meadows. We will then work our way downstream. We will iron out all the bugs as we go.

*Further details from Paul Willmott
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