
River Dour Partnership

Jeremy Cope

River Volunteers

A reminder that volunteers are always welcome to join the working parties. The volunteers do invaluable work clearing litter from and caring for the river. Run by White Cliffs Countryside Partnership the contact is Sue Bradford on 01304 241806. Do you know any non-members who may also be interested?

Dover Tales

River Tales, is a joint project between Dover Tales and The Dover Society aimed at promoting our lovely river and financed by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. As part of the HLF project students, in association with KETV, will also film the events and prepare a portfolio for their media studies. Ray Newsam led the first River Tales walk on Sunday 30 July from Kearsney to Pencester which was well attended with around 35 people enjoying some historical tales along the way. Barry O'Brien and members of Dover Tales recited tales outside Crabble Corn Mill, Buckland Church and the small park outside Morrisons whilst accompanied on the flute by Paul Cheneour, while Dominic Lucas and Bill Howarth provided musical entertainment at the start and the end of the walk.

Walks to come

At Kearsney Abbey by the boating lake at 2pm on Sunday 29th October the Spirit of the River Dour took shape which gave everyone the chance to meet the newly created 'River Spirit'. They could take part in a drumming workshop and then heard some

river tales and songs. It finished by parading with the spirit through the park! There will be two 'Industrial history and heritage of the River Dour' walks next year, one on Saturday 3rd February and one on Saturday 10th March. The 3 mile linear walk will explore the flour mills, paper mills, saw mills, breweries and tanneries which once lined the banks of the river. These walks will start outside Crabble Corn Mill at 1.30pm.

Other activities include:-

Very pleasing to report that we are working with Richard Haynes and the Up on the Downs team to explore funding of our projects. They will bring expertise and resources that we often struggle to achieve. Richard's team have the same values as we do, that is valuing the community and the river history and environment.

Chris Gardner of South East Rivers Trust continues his work seeking funding to complete the installation of fish passes at Lorne Road and Halford weirs. He is also working to implement environmental improvements in the Lower Dour.

Allison Burton is working with us and sees our aims as matching in with the Town Council's vision for Dover. The Council is currently working with Kent Wildlife Trust investigating natural wetland sites that allow for family interaction with the river environment.

Deborah Gasking hopes to meet with KCC to try and find a way forward to restore the rather nice late Victorian railings on Barton Path. If restored they would look rather special.