

Press Release



Friday, 5 June 2015

Volunteers help spring clean the River Lavant

Traffic cones, shopping trolleys and mobile phones were just some of the items found and removed by volunteers taking part in a spring clean of the River Lavant in Chichester, West Sussex this week.

Organised by the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT), the event took place on the River Lavant in the centre of Chichester on Tuesday, 2 June 2015. Staff volunteers from the ARRT, Environment Agency, Waitrose and Chichester District Council, took part in the event to help protect the River Lavant, and the wildlife that live in it.

The spring clean took place during this year's Volunteers' Week (1-7 June 2015). The team worked hard to remove large volumes of rubbish from a 1 kilometre stretch of the river. Items removed included shopping trolleys and traffic cones, as well as a number of everyday consumer items, such as mobile phones, umbrellas, slippers and plastic packaging.

Sir Sebastian Anstruther, Chairman of the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, said: "We are very grateful to all of those that turned up to help us spring clean the River Lavant. The volunteers worked extremely hard and their efforts will help to breathe life back into the river and improve the surrounding environment.

"The future health of our rivers and the wildlife that live in them relies on active support from the local community, and in organising events such as this we hope to inspire many others to get involved. By working together I am convinced that even the most complex issues facing our environment can be addressed, and that our rivers will continue to provide a source of enjoyment for generations to come."

Rivers Trusts represent catchment areas across England and Wales, supported by the national umbrella body, The Rivers Trust. The Arun & Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT) was formally registered as a charity in May 2012 and is working on a number of projects to protect, conserve, and enhance the health of the water environment in West Sussex. The trust is a charitable body that relies on donations. Find out how you can donate or get involved in action to protect and restore our rivers, by going to <http://arrt.org.uk/contact/>.

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Notes to editors:

For more information about the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, please visit: <http://www.arrt.org.uk/>

To view a map of the 'Arun and Western Streams' catchment visit: http://www.arrt.org.uk/media/ARRT_Catchment_Map.pdf