

River View

The latest news from the Inishowen Rivers Trust

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A busy year for the River Guardians Training Programme

Wow, it's been a busy year for the River Guardians. Last year when we first announced our funding for the programme from Rethink Ireland, we had no idea what a great year lay ahead of us. We had a fantastic response to our call for participants and trained 75 of you on everything from landscape geography, water safety, riverfly monitoring, water chemistry, willow spiling and catchment restoration. Between April and November we offered 29 separate learning opportunities, provided 8 certified courses and spent €60,000, much of it here in the local Inishowen community. Many thanks to all our enthusiastic participants - you were amazing!



A key element of this year's training was a blended learning approach. This involves delivering parts of the training through different mediums e.g., a webinar online followed by a fieldtrip and a video to emphasise the key learning outcomes. You can read more about the videos we produced this year below.

There was a strong emphasis on Nature-Based Solutions - using nature to mimic natural processes. We are deeply grateful to all our facilitators who have guided us so expertly through the many topics covered and shared their wealth of knowledge and experience.

As part of the training, we try to offer experiential opportunities - learning by doing. So our volunteers also got involved in 9 projects over the summer, building revetment, planning and planting ponds, willow spiling and eradicating invasive species. Thank you to the landowners for giving us access to their lands and agreeing to host the projects. And so on to next year.....

Videos on YouTube

We've produced a series of videos as part of our River Guardians Training Programme this year. Check out our YouTube video channel and you might find something that interests you.

- Willow Spiling
- Nature Based Solutions on an Inishowen Farm
- Nature Based Solutions on Farm Drains
- Ponds for Biodiversity
- (Domestic) Constructed Wetlands System in Inishowen
- Silt Traps for Woodlands
- Water Chemistry in Rivers - Parts 1 to 5
- Woody Materials in Rivers



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxUuFTCWIPm5rV58qazAYZQ>



New DAFM funding to create buffer zones on the Culdaff River

Earlier this year the Trust were delighted to be awarded €132,870 from the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for a new EIP project called Culdaff Riparian Buffer Zone (CRiBZ) Scheme. This scheme will pay farmers to fence and plant trees and hedging on the riparian zones of the Culdaff River. The project aims to promote farmland biodiversity and improve the water quality of the river but there are many other benefits too. Improving water quality ensures we have good clean drinking water, allowing biodiversity to flourish in the habitats created, bank erosion is reduced, and recreation and angling on the river is supported. We are still accepting expressions of interest, so call us now.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

A New Year's Resolution

We've had a great idea! For your New Year's resolution why not register as a volunteer of the Trust! It's a great way to get exercise, meet new people and learn about the environment. You would also be helping to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis. All our projects are aimed at helping restore our rivers to good health and that creates the right environment for wildlife to thrive and rivers to function normally. And we thrive there too because being out in nature is good for us.

There are lots of ways to register. Scan the QR Code, browse to the link, register via the website or simply email us. See you soon!

<https://arcg.is/15HvD11>



IRT Volunteer Registration Form



JK experiment on the Glennagannon

Over the summer months we have been working with Kevin Moore on a particularly interesting project on the Glennagannon River. This DCC funded project looked at the problem of Japanese knotweed that is spread rapidly on the river banks causing bank erosion and reducing biodiversity. Treatment is difficult. This project looks at a novel way to deal with knotweed using naturally occurring bacteria and fungi to control of growth of JK. So far the experiment has shown some promising results and we hope to extend this into the new year.

If you have a problem with JK on your land, and would like to be involved in experimental trials please contact us to discuss.

Crana Community Engagement Project

During August and September we ran a project on the Crana River clearing another invasive species, Himalayan balsam, and removing debris from Magee's Pool. We also used willow spiling to repair a section of bank, after learning this techniques through the River Guardians training programme. The spiling helps rebuild the banks and protects against further erosion. Thank you to all the locals who helped out and to the landowners who are keen to help improve the river. This project was funded by the Flood Relief Schemes Unit at Donegal County Council.



Thanks to our funders

The IRT is a charity and relies fully on funding and donations from the public. Our one staff member is funded through the Resilience Pilot Project funded through the Local Authority Waters Programme by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and managed by The Rivers Trust (UK). If you are interested in supporting the Trust, you can donate via iDonate or through our website.

