

River View

The latest news from the Inishowen Rivers Trust

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Winner of the Water Heritage Award 2023

We were thrilled to win the 2023 Water Heritage Award along with the Loughs Agency at the The Heritage Council awards ceremony, held in Offaly. The award, sponsored by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), was in recognition of the **Culdaff River Streamkeepers** event held in the Wee Hall, Culdaff in August. Our project officer Carlene Lyttle attended the event with Dr. Liam Campbell to accept the award from LAWPRO Regional Co-ordinator Mags Morrissey.

The Culdaff River event brought together people from the local community in Culdaff with the local fisheries authority, the Loughs Agency, and the Inishowen Rivers Trust to discuss the importance of water heritage to our everyday lives. Dr. Liam Campbell (Mellon Centre, Ulster American Folk Park) and Dr. Willie Burke (Loughs Agency) lead the discussion on topics such as the mills on the Culdaff and the importance of the angling. Old stories came to light and there was a particularly fascinating discussion on placenames along the river. The Trust would like to extend a special thank you to everyone in the local community who came along that night and to Dr. Campbell and Dr. Burke for their expert insight.

This event was organised as part of the Heritage Capacity project which was awarded to the Trust in April 2023. See some images from what we got up to this year later on in the newsletter.

Join us for
tree planting
in 2024!



Tree Planting season starts soon!

The adage that the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago resonates with us here at the Trust as we prepare to embark on another tree planting initiative this winter season. With the invaluable assistance and co-operation of landowners and the outstanding charity Trees On The Land, we're gearing up to plant over 600 trees this season. Contact us to get involved!

Planting a tree is an exercise in patience, as it can take years to witness the fruits of your labor. However, we're already witnessing the positive effects of such efforts, as demonstrated by the remarkable transformation at Mary Crowley's property in Clonmany. Mary not only installed a pond but also embarked on a significant tree planting endeavor. While the full impact of the trees will take time to manifest, just one year later we can already see the remarkable changes brought about by the pond installation.

Mary's land has become a haven for wildlife. Notably, she has had the pleasure of hosting wild mallard ducks and their offspring, along with several other wild birds. The local ecosystem around her pond now thrives, boasting a multitude of frogs, insects and even the occasional fox. Thankfully, the ducks managed to evade the fox's visit. As the trees continue to take root and grow, this flourishing ecosystem will become more diverse and vibrant. Mary has truly transformed what was once a simple field into something extraordinary, teeming with life.

For those interested in hedgerow and tree planting, we offer a helpful guide available for download on our website www.Inishowenriverstrust.com. Let's embrace the spirit of tree planting and contribute to a greener more sustainable future. Happy planting!

New staff at the IRT

In September, the Trust family took another leap forward with 2 new members of staff. A huge welcome to Sean Toland and Liz Doherty who take up the roles of Project Officer and Support Officer/Admin.

Sean is from Carndoagh, has a degree in environmental science and has a keen interest in forestry. Liz joins us from Urris, has a degree in IT and is an avid photographer. Both staff members have settled well into their busy routine at the Trust office and have been out and about on the rivers and working with the volunteers. You can contact Sean & Liz using the mobile numbers on page 1.



Sean & Liz our newest staff members

Welcome to the Team!

A busy year with visitors to Trust projects

The Inishowen Rivers Trust is an active organisation implementing projects on the ground such as working with landowners to help repair riverbank erosion. Our Natural Flood Management (NFM) project in Clonmany, the first one of its kind in Ireland, attracts many visitors from agencies and groups across Ireland. We are delighted to be able to showcase our work and pass on our knowledge of what has worked for Inishowen rivers.

One of our early 'tours' this summer was with Dr. Paul Quinn from the University of Newcastle, Dr. Russell Adams from AFBI, Dr. Nick Timmons from ATU Letterkenny and Deirdre Mortell from Rethink Ireland. We also hosted representatives from Inland Fisheries Ireland, Donegal County Council, Stranooden Group Water Scheme, Trout Unlimited and Ken Whelan. In October we welcomed New Zealand Ambassador to Ireland Trevor Mallard. During his visit we were joined by landowners Micky Devlin and Patrick Roddy, two of the Clonmany landowners who were involved in our NFM project. There is always something to share and learn by the river and with each year we learn more and more.

Many thanks to all of the landowners for accommodating these visits and for their continued support.



Russell, Deirdre, Paul, Trish & Nick visit the leaky dams.



Ken Whelan with Laura & Mike from Trout Unlimited, USA.



A bus load of visitors to the Glennagannon River in February.



IRT with Stranooden Group & Inishowen Uplands EIP.



Trish Murphy, Trevor Mallard and local farmer Michael Devlin discussing the impact of the Big Flood at Glenevin Waterfall trail.



Visiting the leaky dams installed on small streams to help slow the flow on the Ballyhallan River, Clonmany. Also present works contractor Ross Buchanan from Inish Forestry.



National River Guardians Heritage Capacity Fund



Inishowen
Rivers
Trust



European Organisation for the
Exploitation of Meteorological
Satellites (EUMETSAT)

- Weather
- Climate
- Ocean
- Land
- Atmosphere



Cistithe ag
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



V is for Volunteer!

A huge GO RAIBH MÍLE MAITH AGAIBH to all the volunteers who helped this year on one of our many days out. We love to meet volunteers from other groups too with the common goals of protecting water and wildlife.



Visit our website to find out more about some of our projects and visit our YouTube channel for training videos and clips from some of our wonderful Inishowen Rivers.

YouTube: @inishowenriverstrust4615



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED

CONTACT US



Midwinter Greetings

Winter is generally a time we associate with Nature sleeping, hibernating, resting, slowing, us humans too wanting to stay in cosy more, rest up and keep warm but in the rivers it's salmon and trout spawning season and for this, fish need gravelly streams and rivers which are well oxygenated, and free of pollution and disturbance. Sadly, findings this summer showed no significant improvement in the water quality of Ireland's rivers and lakes, the decline continuing from the many pressures that human activity has on these waterways.

Inishowen Rivers Trust has a vision to protect and restore the waters of Inishowen and we work tirelessly to achieve this with our wonderful staff and our marvellous team of volunteers! Of course our efforts require funding and we're always grateful to the funding bodies we work with but as with many groups in the charity sector, cash shortages always slow progress.

So! This is an appeal of sorts! Donations are always welcome and we have a special 'Donate' button on our website if you just happen to have some spare pennies! We are also on the look out for more trustee members. The Board of Trustees is a group of volunteers who help ensure that the focus of IRT remains on the vision of the charity. We were fortunate to be joined this year by Margaret Farren bringing our number to 6 but we really need a couple more trustees. We meet roughly once a month for a couple of hours, usually in Carndonagh, and communicate at other times as required by email and WhatsApp. If you're passionate about the protection of Inishowen's waterbodies and have a few hours to spare a month, then please get in touch.



We have some lovely plans cooking for 2024 and I'm really looking forward to getting back out where the rivers run and the brooks babble to see what can be done to improve them. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to thank you all for your continued support and commitment.

All that remains is for me to send warm wishes to you all during this festive season and hope that you all have chance to rest as well as enjoying any celebrations you may have! Hope to see you on a riverbank somewhere when the light returns!

Claire the Chair!



Thanks to our funders

The IRT is a charity and relies on grant aid and donations to support staff and projects. The Trust are very grateful for the funding received through grants and for the support of the various agencies through projects. If you would like to support the work of the Trust in 2024, please get in touch about sponsorship or how we can help you with your environmental projects. Find out more about us through our website.

