



# Clwyd, Conwy & Gwynedd Rivers Trust

## Ymddiriedolaeth yr Afonydd Clwyd a Conwy a Gwynedd

### Newsletter Number 1 Autumn 2016



#### A message from our Chairman: Alan Winstone:

#### Dear Rivers Trust Supporter

Welcome to our brand new edition of our Clwyd, Conwy & Gwynedd Rivers Trust Newsletter. Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers who contribute so much to our work.

#### Who are we?

The Clwyd, Conwy and Gwynedd Rivers Trust (CC&GRT) was incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 as a company limited by guarantee on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007, and there are nineteen Members including the ten Trustees. The affairs of the Trust are managed by an “Operational Group”, which is appointed annually, although other persons may be co-opted during the year.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

The Clwyd, Conwy and Gwynedd Rivers Trust is a founding member of Afonydd Cymru, the body representing Welsh Rivers Trusts and is an associate member of The Rivers Trust, the parent body of English Rivers Trusts. As Chairman of the Clwyd, Conwy and Gwynedd Trust I am also a director of Afonydd Cymru ( <http://www.afonyddcymru.org> ).

#### Aims of the Trust:



- To increase the biodiversity of the habitats, and strengthen the indigenous species of plants and animals, associated with the rivers, streams, still waters and adjacent areas of the Clwyd, Conwy and Gwynedd river catchments.



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- To educate the public in the understanding of riverine habitats and associated wildlife. In addition, to advance understanding in the need for their conservation, protection and rehabilitation.
- To promote the sustainable use of the river and its environment for economic benefit thus supporting rural regeneration.
- Promote awareness of environmental issues and best river management practice.
- Promote recreational and leisure enjoyment of rivers, lakes and wetlands.
- Undertake research and practical work to maintain, restore and enhance environmental habitats within the catchments of the Afon Clwyd, Conwy and diverse rivers in Gwynedd.



Children from Ysgol Bontnewydd, with Richard Pierce (NRW) left, who took part in the salmon egg education project.

### **Our Partners:**

The Trust works with:

- Local authorities, Natural Resources Wales and other government agencies and conservation bodies to investigate and remedy problems of pollution and habitat destruction in the most cost effective and sustainable way.



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- Farmers and landowners to encourage greater understanding and appreciation of the environment of the Clwyd, Conwy and Gwynedd catchments and to encourage greater access and usage and thereby enjoyment of the countryside, particularly for young people and those with disabilities.
- Local schools and community groups such as wildlife trusts and angling clubs to create opportunities for learning about habitats, wildlife and conservation.

### **Clywedog Fish Easement:**



The Trust is working with Natural Resources Wales to remove a barrier at Cyfilliog on the upper Clywedog by removing bedrock to enable fish to access the upper river. The work is scheduled to be completed shortly. The Trust is using funds donated several years ago by the Federation of Clwyd Angling Clubs.



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**Llyn Padarn Charr Investigation:**



The Trust is collaborating with Bangor University, Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales to establish a 3 year PhD Project into life cycle modelling of charr populations in Llyn Padarn which have been in serious decline for a number of years. This work would enable any future mitigation and enhancement work to be fully evaluated and justified. The work is being led by Dr Ian McCarthy from Bangor University and Dr Nigel Milner at APEM. The initial application to KESs for funding was not successful but an amended application based on the feedback received is being prepared for resubmission.



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### Anglesey Rivers from Source to Sea:



The Trust is working on a project funding bid to Anglesey's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Sustainable Development Fund to survey the 10 main rivers on Anglesey and establish at least 5 wild Trout fishing locations which will be marketed on the Wales 'Fishing Passport' Scheme. The Project would also provide valuable information for future projects to improve river habitats, tackle invasive weeds, improve water quality and further develop sustainable, wild trout and sea trout fisheries in the lower reaches of these rivers.

### Dolwyddelan Fishing Rights, River Conwy:



The Trust put in a bid to purchase 1.2 miles of fishing on the upper Conwy plus half of Llyn y Foel which are being offered for sale by informal tender. The Trust would like to acquire the water as a salmon and sea trout sanctuary and allow trout fishing through the Fishing Passport Scheme. The bid was funded by a donation from the Conwy Valley Fisheries and Conservation Association.

### Fisheries Conference – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017:



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After

the successful 2015 conference the Trust is organising another conference on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Coed y Brenin in partnership with Natural Resources Wales.

The format and speakers for the event are currently being put together and details will be circulated in October.

### **Trust Volunteer Day – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

This is being organised by Richard Pierce, NRW, and will take place on the River Ystrad near Denbigh, an important spawning tributary and nursery area for Salmon and Trout. Some damage has occurred to an established habitat improvement scheme with the river eroding away some of the soft engineering and underneath the buffer fence, allowing stock to enter the buffer corridor. The idea is for Trust members alongside NRW fisheries officers and anyone else who would be willing to spare a few hours to work together to repair the damage to the scheme. Techniques to be used would include some Willow spilling and brush bundling. The plan is to meet on site for 10am, so bring a packed lunch. It is hoped to be completed by mid-afternoon (depending on numbers). Richard will send a map and directions to the site nearer the time. We hope you can make it.

### **Forward Look:**

The Trust's next Operations Group meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2106 at 10:00 in Rhuddlan Community Centre. This will be followed by the Trust's Annual General Meeting in the afternoon.



If you have some spare time on your hands why not spend some of it volunteering for the Trust. We are always looking for people to help us either in a formal role, as a member of our Operations Group, as a Trustee or as one of our officer roles. We are currently looking for people to help us with our fund raising and development role and our education role. So please get in touch if you would like to help.



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If you have any good ideas for projects that the Trust could help with, whether big or small please let us know. We may be able to access funds to help you make your ideas become a reality. Finally, please let us know if you found this newsletter of interest and how we could develop it in future. Also if you have some news let us know – the next newsletter is planned for winter 2017. Thank you.