



REVIVEL

Restoration of sufficient flow that sustains brown trout all year round in the Upper Ivel

Chair: Bernard Butt  
Media, Engagement and Education: Kathryn Mackenzie  
Membership, Finance and Website: Tony and Matthew Woodman  
Environmental Officer: Ian Hall  
Strategy and Archivist: Beth Hall  
Social media: vacant  
Research and Development: Richard Meredith Hardy  
Secretary: Catherine Wilmers  
Environmental Solutions: Nick Balmer  
Fundraiser: Chris Hobbs

## MINUTES AGM no.3 OF THE RevIvel Association

NOVEMBER 1st 2022 at 7.30pm Radwell Village Hall

1. Welcome to everyone from the Chair Bernard Butt and introductions to the Committee.
2. Present: 29 people plus the committee
3. Apologies from Matthew Woodman, Oliver Heald MP, Dede Rose, Chris Hobbs, Craig Johnson
4. Minutes from AGM Meeting November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 sent out before the meeting; voted to accept as true record.
5. Matters arising: Sharon Moat has left but was thanked for all she has done. Andy Lloyd thanked for his help with Facebook. Craig thanked for his wonderful hard work on Twitter.
6. **ANNUAL REPORT: a roundup of the year by Kathryn Mackenzie.**
  - QUARTER 1** New website (12.12.21); appeal launched (31.1.22) to employ John Lawson as expert; new leaflet and talk to Ashwell Horticultural Society.
  - QUARTER 2** Stakeholder meeting with Affinity Water and Five Rivers about Ivel Springs River Restoration Scheme, money provided by Affinity Water. It has lovely ideas but there is no water. Submissions were made to Water Resources East (February 28<sup>th</sup>) and Water Resources South East (March 1<sup>st</sup>), difficult for us as we are on the cusp of each water planning authority. Visit from Water vole officer from Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust, smart mink raft installed. Articles in The Comet (front page) and Stotfold+ Arlesey News, and On your Doorstep. Citizen River Habitat Training started cRHS  
31.1.22 Appeal closed £5275 raised  
7.4.22 Meeting with Anglian Water and local councillors re sewage issues (sewage main had now burst three times)
  - QUARTER 3** 23.4.22 riverfly training River Chess  
7.5-14.5 Presence at Baldock Eco Fair, Stotfold Steam Fest and Baldock Street Fair  
21.5.22 Schubert's Trout Quintet fund-raising concert, St.Mary's Church, Baldock, Baldock Festival.  
21.5.22 JOHN LAWSON REPORT ISSUED  
8.6.22 Meeting with Environment Agency (EA) and Affinity Water  
17.6.22 Anglian Water follow up  
6.7.22 Stakeholder feedback to Affinity Water  
12.7.22 EA re The Application of The Water Framework Directive (thanks you to Oliver Heald who wrote to Sir James Bevan (Head of EA)  
First Meeting of the Upper Bedford and Ouse Catchment Partnership (UBOCP) chalk streams working group (RevIvel is Chair)
  - QUARTER 4** Local RevIvel activity to promote the solution outlined in John Lawson's Report  
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER Canoe trip to highlight the plight of the upper Ivel (Richard Meredith – Hardy and helpers)  
5.9.22 Letchworth Arts and Leisure Group (LALG), biggest audience they had had for a Monday talk (Kathryn and Catherine)  
10.9.22 Letchworth Garden City Green Fair  
11.9.22 Pilgrimage along Ivel from Baldock to Radwell with Bishop and other clerics to highlight plight of the river. Over 75 people and lots of publicity  
8-9.10.22 Stotfold Working Steam weekend; contact with Stotfold Mill, new members and donations

## Media

10.8.22 Meeting with Adam Nicholson, well known author, writing article about chalk streams for National Geographic

12.8.22 Meeting with Patrick Rangeley, young film maker, video-film in progress

28.8.22 Richard Meredith-Hardy (RM-H) live on the Kay Burley Show (Sky News)

1.9.22 RevIvel on BBC Look East (West)

2.9.22 RMH on Three Counties Radio

1.10.22 Front page of The Comet again!

REVIVEL scheduled formal meetings to take forward the solution:

2.8.22 EA and John Lawson (JL)

16.8.22 WRE, EA, Anglian Water, JL, Charles Rangeley-Wilson (CRW):- OUTCOME to urgently explore a pilot project on the Ivel

21.10.22 WRE, EA, Anglian Water, Affinity Water, JL, CRW, outcome progress but long road ahead.

## Other RevIvel activity

26.9.22 UBOCP chalk streams working group

1.9.22 Sewage (4<sup>th</sup> burst in 18 months)

1.9.22 Visit from Sarah Perry, Living Rivers Officer HMWT

14.10.22 UBOCP Agriculture Working Group

Now there are 2000 more Twitter followers, testament to Craig Johnson's hard work

## 7. FINANCE presented by Tony Woodman.

Tony sends out monthly updates to members and Matthew is the Treasurer but is in London.

Massive increase in income due to appeal, more members, donations, concert...

### Financial Statement

1st November 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

#### Income

Membership fee	£ 1,080.00
Donation	£ 7,355.00
Donation (Bucket at event)	£ 114.08
Councillors Donation	£ 460.00
North Herts Lottery	£ 232.50
Church Concert	£ 1,401.06
Other sales	£ -
Total income	£ 10,642.64

### Financial Statement

1st November 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

#### Operating Expenses

Advertising & printing	£ 318.73
Events	£ 706.00
Insurance	£ 183.11
Monitoring Expense	£ 198.10
Professional Fees	£ 4,407.10
Refund	£ 25.00
Stripe Expenses	£ 154.64
Website	£ 119.88
Total Operating Expenses	£ 6,112.56

John Lawson was very kind and supportive and modest in his fees. Many thanks to him. Many thanks also to Matt Skeggs for donating his time and energy for the website. There is now the ability to join and renew online with automatic renewal reminders. More money will be needed and much is earmarked for future projects. Thanks to all who joined this year, continued their membership and gave donations and supported RevIvel. There are now 145 members, 80 a year ago.

Accounts voted for and approved.

## 8. Elections presented by Catherine Wilmers and Bernard Butt

Chair: Bernard Butt decided to stand down; he considered that a change would be refreshing. He was thanked for all his energy, hard work and enthusiasm and was presented with a bottle of 'fizzy'! Nick

Rogers, Emeritus Professor of Earth Sciences at the Open University offered to take up the post ; proposed by Ian Hall, seconded by Keith Cox.

Trustees to be Catherine Wilmers, Tony Woodman, Richard Meredith-Hardy, Chris Hobbs and Nick Rogers.

9. Richard Meredith-Hardy introduced Charles Rangeley-Wilson as a 'river god'! Even the Queen thought so and gave him an OBE this year. Our problem is lack of water. The water companies try to blind us with science but with the help of JL and CRW we have 'trashed their science'.

#### **10. CHARLES RANGELEY-WILSON Guest Speaker**

Charles launched CABA the chalk stream restoration strategy and is chair of this (The Catchment Based Approach). He talked about his developing passion for rivers and also helped to found the Wild Trout Trust. Chalk streams are special, equivalent to rainforests in other countries (only exist in UK, Normandy and Denmark). He said that in Cologne Cathedral people spent their entire life making the floor, hoping that the technology would follow to create the ceiling and found that inspirational. NGOs have been discussing problems of rivers since 1945 but not agreed on solutions.

Three things are necessary...FLOW; CLEAN WATER; HABITAT and all three are needed for progress. He talked about phosphate stripping, use of integrated wetlands and habitat reconstruction. To effect any lasting improvements a legal driver is needed and that is a very important thing we need to fight for. Chalk streams need protected status. The River Ivel has one of the largest figures for abstraction of any chalk stream in the UK, so it is very precious. In August this year kids were playing in the river Mimram but the Ivel was completely dry. He visited both on the same day. The first flow is just below Stotfold Mill. Water needs to be abstracted downstream and to have the infrastructure to be stored. The upper River Ivel has the infrastructure in place from Graffham Water and Affinity Water has agreed to investigate. There are existing pipes which may need boosting. River abstraction at river headwaters should not happen except in a freak drought time.

He then showed us the restoration work he has helped effect on the river Nar in Norfolk if we ever get water! For example rivers were levelled and straightened to get enough flow to run mills.

We also need to investigate the Great Ouse Water Act from the 1940s. Affinity is selling water to Anglian that should be in our region.

Nick Rogers thanked CRW for the stimulating talk, the only recent environmental talk that shows hope for the future.

#### **11. Future Plans Beth Hall.**

Ivel feasibility study with WRE, EA, Anglian/Affinity Water

Water Framework Directive Challenge boundary change plus protected status for chalk stream headwaters (dialogue with EA and MPs)

Proposed Augmentation Scheme: scrutinize Affinity Water testing of augmentation borehole and subsequent flow; watch brief on river restoration strategy.

Pollution Monitoring: challenge Anglian Water on 4<sup>th</sup> burst rising main in 2 years, focus on domestic misconnections

Environmental Monitoring (riverfly, water quality, river wardens, water vole/mink)

NHDC Local Plan Consultation: impact of Baldock population growth on upper Ivel (particularly Baldock Common development)

Communication Plans Membership and Community Engagement (events, website, social media, films.. 'River Ivel Plight' and '14pence Expedition')

Stakeholders...councillors, MPs, other volunteer groups, Chalk Stream Alliance

REFRESHMENTS

#### **12. Next meeting November 21st 2023**