

# What's Beane Happening?

The newsletter of The River Beane Restoration Association  
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## Welcome

These are exciting times for members of the RBRA. No longer a campaigning group, because the battle for our river has been won, we can now concentrate on the environmental improvements that will take place over the next few years. In our Spring issue we reported on the possibility that water voles could be reintroduced on the upper Beane. The water vole is a target species for the Herts and Middlesex wildlife trust because their numbers have been decimated by an alien invader, the mink! One of the RBRA's projects is to help ensure that The Beane stays mink free. **Come to our AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> June at 8.00pm in the Watton at Stone Memorial Hall** to hear about this and the many other projects that the RBRA undertakes. A film about the reintroduction of water voles on the Stort will be shown at the meeting.

## A View of the Beane on the new Waterford Heath Walk



"On Saturday 14th May RBRA members were invited to try out a new circular walk at Waterford, which links Waterford Marsh with Waterford Heath, a Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) reserve. About 25 people enjoyed the hour-long trail, half of which joins the River Beane along one of its most scenic stretches. Another aspect of this walk is that it includes a range of habitats, incorporating woodland (at Great Molewood), open countryside and then riverside. On the walk various animal species were witnessed including the Red Kite, the Roman Snail and some water fowl. But as it was quite cool that day we did not see many butterflies, usually one of the highlights in May and June!

The circular walk was then officially launched by the Mayor of Hertford, Cllr Linda Radford, on Friday 3rd June with HMWT staff, RBRA representatives and volunteers present. Check for details on the HMWT website [www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk) (CTRL click to follow link)

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### Art Competition

For the second year running the RBRA is organizing an art competition for pupils at primary schools along The Beane Valley. The deadline for entries is 30<sup>th</sup> June.

A panel of judges will decide upon the three prize winners and you will be able to see them in the next edition of our news letter. They will also be on display, together with as many other entries as possible, at village shows during the year.

## The RBRA wishes Rob Sage (Affinity Water) a long and happy retirement



On 30<sup>th</sup> March, a party of RBRA members visited the Whitehall Pump Station and water works at the invitation of Affinity Water. The occasion was the retirement of Rob Sage, Water Resources Manager of Affinity Water.

We have known Rob Sage of Affinity Water Company for many years. Affinity Water provided us with a conducted tour of the works and an explanation of how it works. When the works was built in the 1950's it was more or less manually controlled, but over the years has become fully automated. The pump station and treatment works are now computer controlled and this can be over ridden from within the works or from head office where a live on line diagram of the works can be viewed on screen.

After the visit we were invited for a buffet lunch by Affinity Water which was appreciated. RBRA made a presentation to Rob to thank him for the information he has given us over the years and the straight forward way he has been our liaison with the Company.

## Road Shows

The RBRA attends selected village fetes to show visitors what we do and give folks the opportunity to buy a car sticker, only £1, and a DVD of the award winning film 'On the Banks of the Beane' on sale at £5. (These are also available through our website)

The road shows this year will be Aston 3 July, Watton Methodist Church 10 Sept., and Waterford 11 Sept. We have already held road shows at Stapleford and Watton Village Fete and a photograph taken at Watton is included here.



## River Walks



Last year we held two river walks and these were successful. We have already held one this year on 14<sup>th</sup> May at Waterford Heath Nature reserve and Waterford Marsh. (See above article)

A second river walk is being planned for September, details to be announced. This will be publicized nearer the time.

### AGM 29<sup>th</sup> June 8.00pm in the Watton at Stone Memorial Hall

Please come to our AGM. We will explain what we have been doing over the past 12 months including updates on the Whitehall Pump Station, the pipeline from Sacombe to Whitehall, environmental monitoring, and various other projects. **And...**

*Over the next 12 months we hope to be also assisting with the early stages of the project to reintroduce water voles to The Beane!*

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