

The River Crouch Conservation Trust Est. 2009

Friends of the river bank:

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Affiliated to the Angling Trust of Great Britain

R.C.C.T

View from the bridge autumn 2017. Sunday 10th September

This was an early autumn work party, its normally mid-October but always when low tide is around 12 noon 'General Musters' at 9 am Sunday morning at the main large park gates. Around 20 volunteers arrived, and we split into two groups. The first group cleared a path down the very steep bank just down stream of the meadow road, and man handled large black sacks of rubbish up the bank.

The second group went about half a mile down stream and worked the river bed in chest waders throwing rubbish onto the bank, while others pull the heavier items up the bank with a strong rope and large hook. All the sacks and larger items were transported in the firm's van and off loaded into the parks rubbish compound, even with only 20 helpers, compound was filling up quite quickly. Basildon Council are very helpful to our river trust allowing this.

For the youngsters in the group I organise a litter and Himalayan Balsam pick, this plant is rather attractive, with its bright red/pink flowers but very invasive, fortunately we cleared great quantities in the spring. It's very easy to pull out of the soft river bank soil. Only about 5% were left growing and were soon dispatched. At 12.30 we broke for refreshment, hot chocolate, coffee or Bovril, cheese and biscuits etc.

For the last one and a half hours we had a run round clearing remaining sacks etc.

I was very surprised on the amount of rubbish and weed we picked from the river and its banks. Large shoals of fish were seen and King Fishers and one water vole. And the point to finalise on, only one car tyre was found! Nearly 10 years ago, it was 100's. Well done everybody.

The dates for the next two working parties will be early February.

Very sincerely to you all,

Roy

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