

June 2018

RWT ISSUES

The
RIVER WEY TRUST
Newsletter

River Wey Walk?

We haven't done our 'Annual' Walk for a while, due to poor turnout in relation to the effort it takes to organise! If we can get enough expressions of interest, we'll give it another go ... are Saturday mornings best? Let us know what you think ... and would you come along?

Workparty

See page 3

There's still just time to come along to
**Our Annual Fundraiser at
FOLEY MANOR ESTATE**
PORTSMOUTH ROAD, LIPHOOK GU30 7JF
by kind invitation of Mr Richard Northcott
SATURDAY 30th JUNE
From 12 noon to 3.00pm

PICNIC ON THE HEADWATERS

Bring your own picnic (and pudding) , chairs
and table

WE SUPPLY A GLASS OR TWO OF
FIZZ

while you listen to
GRANDPA SPELL'S JAZZ BAND
and try your luck in

THE GRAND RAFFLE
and experience

A GUIDED WALK IN REEDY WOOD
(bring boots!)

TICKETS £6.50
under 12s free

Available from RWT on 01428 722162
(or email office@riverweytrust.org.uk)
or from any Trustee

The River Wey Trust—charity no 1177871

SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are still a few Friends who have yet to pay their 2018/19 subscriptions. If you are unsure if you have paid, please contact us on 01428 722162

Alternatively, email us at
office@riverweytrust.org.uk

FROM THE RIVERBED— *our editorial roundup*



PLUS ÇA CHANGE... If you look closely at the back page of the Newsletter, you might spot something a bit different—not just the Data Protection statement, but that the RWT's charity number has changed and with it the type of Charity that we are: over the last few months, thanks to the hard work of Trustee Bob Wilson (with invaluable advice from Bill Wain of—among other organisations—the Woolmer Forest Heritage Society and the Deadwater Valley Trust) we are now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO"). Previously the legal entity comprised the individual trustees themselves (four of whom held our land on behalf of the Trust), but now it is the Trust itself, as a CIO, that is the entity, and all assets (especially the land—once it's transferred) become the property of the Trust itself.

CIO is a relatively new charity status—previously the only alternative was a charitable company limited by guarantee, which worked for larger charities with a strong 'trading' activity (like the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust): this involved onerous things like registering with Companies House, so clearly was not for the RWT!

Trustee David Lee resigned at our APM in November after many years' hard work for the Trust (particularly in filling the hon. secretary rôle—still vacant!) and although a hard act to follow, Alistair Young has stepped forward to become a Trustee ... he of the SandBox (see elsewhere in this Newsletter), our Webmaster and Data Protection guru.

We wait expectantly as the planning application for the land at Radford Bridge is scheduled—at last—to be lodged by the end of June!

BRYAN HERSEY

We were very sorry to hear of Bryan's death last March—he would have been 95 in July this year.

He had been a good friend of the Trust almost since its inception in 1984, and had proved an enthusiastic host to

our summer party on more than one occasion.

Standford Mill was his pride and joy and he—as everyone who has partied there will agree—had created an idyllic home and garden there.

His funeral service at Guildford Crematorium was crowded: the Trust was represented by Bob Wilson and Adrian Bird.



HASLEMERE CHARITIES FAIR

The Trust attended the Fair before Christmas, and made some useful contacts.

Trustee Philip Jordan pictured here (on right) with an enthusiast visitor in front of our display.

THE INVASIVE SKUNK CABBAGE

The American Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) is perhaps not as aggressive an invader as our old friends Himalayan Balsam or Japanese Knotweed but when grown near watercourses the seed—although shortlived—can rapidly spread downstream: it seems to prefer growing away from stronger flows (so that the seed can establish—it's a herbaceous perennial with tough rhizomes).

Introduced (like many of our 'intended' invasives) by Victorian gardeners for wetland gardens attracted by its scale and its spectacular flowers (like a giant, yellow Lords-and-Ladies plant) the first report of its escaping into the wild in the UK was in 1947—near Haslemere! This was in fact into the Arun catchment, not the Wey—the watershed is somewhere near Haslemere High Street—but either from that introduction or (more likely) from a planting



within the upper Wey catchment it is spreading down the Southern Wey and is now seen (in small quantity) at least as far downstream as Liphook. Whilst it makes an impressive—if smelly—garden plant, growing four feet high, it does, like 'our' other invasives have the ability to colonise large

areas of wetland and to do what invasives do best, which is to suppress or even eliminate competition from our natives. When it dies back in winter, it can leave the soil below vulnerable to erosion at time of flooding or high flows in adjacent watercourses, leading to siltation of the rivers and instability of riverbanks. Controlling can be hard work—for new establishments just removing the (immature) seed heads may do it; for longer-established plants there may still be viable seed left on the ground after the plant itself is removed, and it can re-establish from broken-off sections of its rhizomes. On larger stands, glyphosate can (at the moment) be used ... albeit by trained personnel.



The images are taken from Skunk Cabbage guidance published by Scottish Natural Heritage and GB Non-Native Species Secretariat <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=413>

VOLUNTEERING

The RWT's contribution to controlling non-natives will be our annual Balsam-Bashing (or more correctly, as far as possible balsam-pulling) on Saturday 15th July: meet at Radford Bridge layby (off the London Road B2070 into Liphook) at 10am (until lunchtime). If you're late, walk in through the metal gate on the Liphook side of the valley and carry on until you spot us. Bring gloves and undergrowth cutting equipment (and something to drink) - expect nettles and brambles, as well as Himalayan balsam.



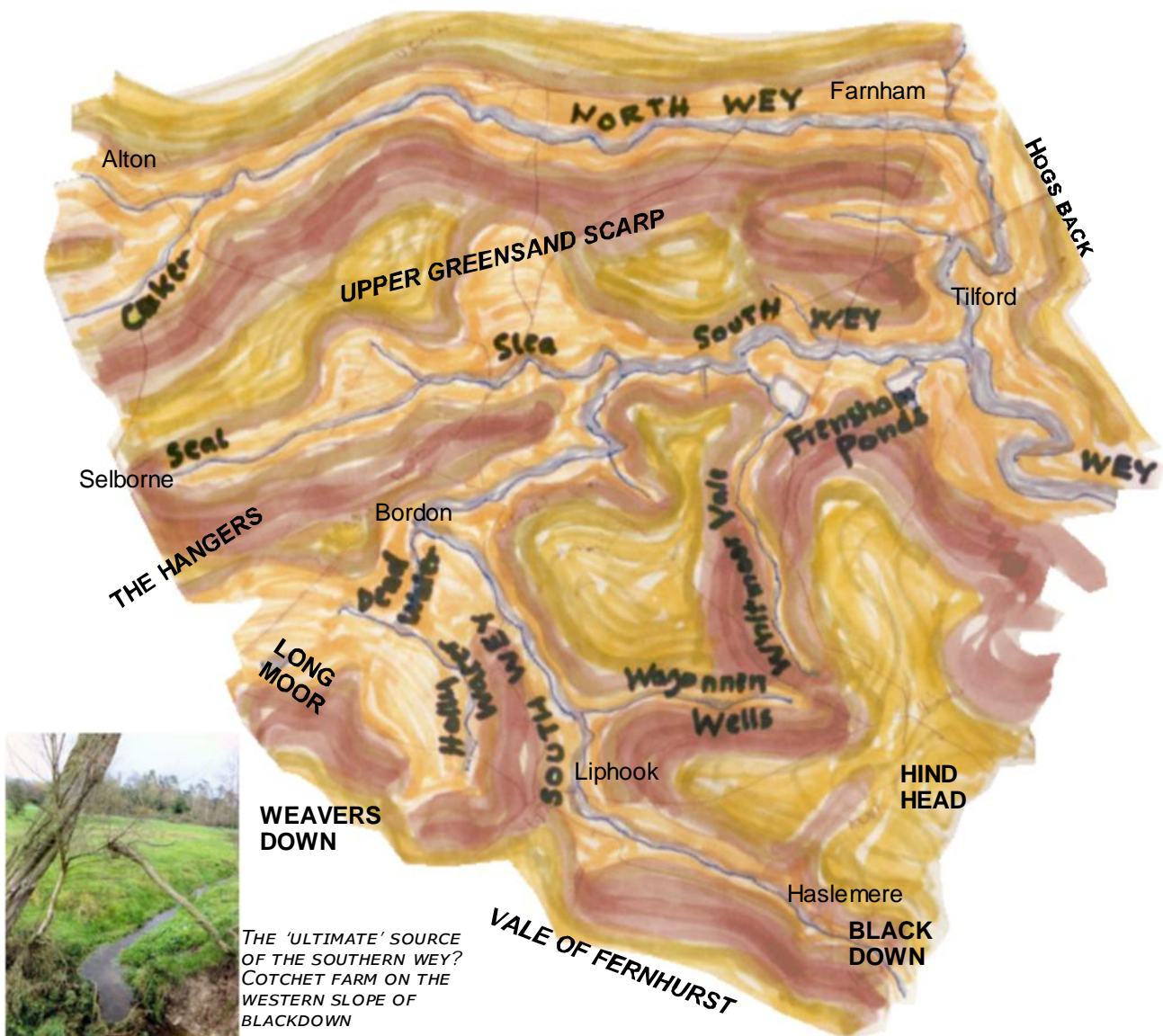
NOT BASHING BALSAM, BUT OUR WINTER WORKPARTY AT PASSFIELD SLUICE

CATCHMENTS/WATERSHEDS/ HEADWATERS/TRIBUTARIES

These terms are all interrelated: the catchment is the topologically bounded extent of where rainwater run-off (and to some extent groundwater—depending on how deep down is the aquifer) finds its way into a river system.

There are catchments and sub-catchments (and indeed sub-sub-catchments): the Southern Wey is a sub-catchment of the Wey catchment which, in turn, is a sub-catchment of the Thames catchment.

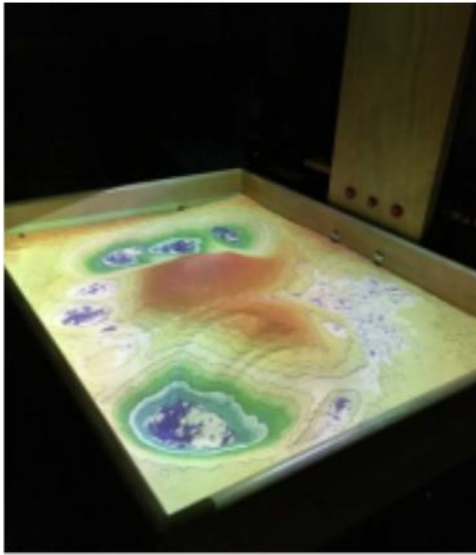
Where the Northern Wey joins the southern Wey at Tilford, then these two sub-(sub-)catchments form the upper part of the main Wey catchment, and so on. We keep reminding our colleagues on the Northern Wey that ‘we’ captured them some 30 thousand years ago when a drop in the river level through the North Downs/Hogs Back gap at Guildford meant that ‘we’ stole the headwaters of the Blackwater at Farnham to become the Northern Wey.



More tributaries join the Wey upstream of Guildford, notably the Cranleigh Waters (and with them the Wey and Arun Canal) and the Tillingbourne (which powered the Chilworth gunpowder mills, dating from the mid-17th century—go to

<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/article/19506/Chilworth-Gunpowder-Mills> for more details).

THE SANDBOX



If you were at last year's summer party, you will remember the Augmented Reality Sandbox. Since then, the sandbox has made an appearance at the "Here's Headley" event for organisations in and around Headley, and is attracting interest from some schools to help in their learning projects around rivers, floods and canals.

Shalford Infants School (not strictly in the Southern Wey catchment area!) had a morning of discovering why locks are necessary on waterways, and how they are designed and work. Another school near Reading is studying flooding, and we are taking the sandbox there to work with their teachers and a post-graduate researcher from Reading University. The museums at Haslemere and Alton have expressed interest, but nothing is yet arranged for visits to them.

Public events will be noted on the Augmented Reality page of the Trust's website (riverweytrust.org.uk) and if you are interested in bringing the sandbox to an event near

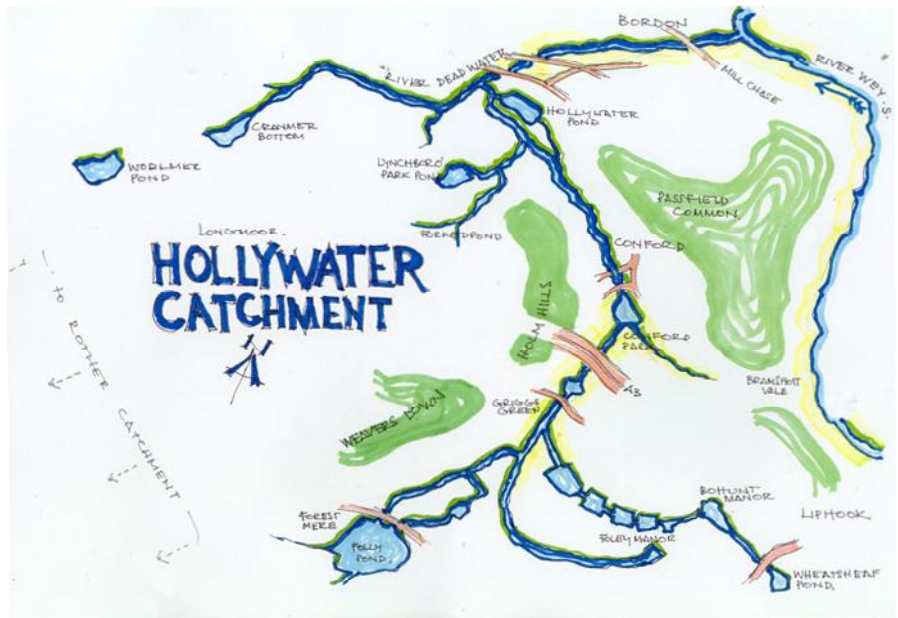
you or perhaps a school you are connected with, please get in touch.

Alistair Young

CATCHMENTS ...CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Back to our own sources: the watershed is a (notional) line drawn along the highest sequence of points that separate one river system from another, and defines the limits of the catchment—to take a local example, the (relatively) high ground that the B3004 follows along from Liphook to Standford defines the watershed between the main Southern Wey and the Holly Water (and then Dead Water) tributary, which joins the main river at Deadwater in Bordon.

Watersheds can 'hang' where the high "point" is in fact fairly flat—it may be a boggy area which drains in both directions, or it could be an area of standing water where the watershed is at a relatively low elevation, such as Wolmer Pond at Longmoor which at times of long-term high rainfall can feed both into the Wey catchment (via the Dead Water) and into the Rother catchment (itself a sub-catchment of the Arun).

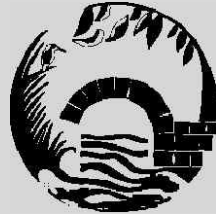


Our headwaters are spring-fed: this may be at the actual source, or it may from groundwater emerging along the valley-side either at an identifiable point or as a more generalised seepage, but in any case where a permeable aquifer emerges on top of an impermeable (or less permeable) stratum (clay or relatively unbroken rock layer): where this stratum is relatively permeable, then depending on the amount of water in the aquifer layer, some will descend to deeper more long-range and longer-term aquifers.

We are fed by Blackdown and then by Hindhead (around which the Wey circles clockwise for much of its length), giant sponges both—serving tributaries that join the Wey at Weyhill (Haslemere), Pitfold, Bramshott, Arford, and both Frensham Ponds. On the outer side of the curve come the stream from Marley (via Shottermill Ponds) and the Slea (from Selborne and Binsted) ... and there are other, smaller contributors as well.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE RIVER WEY TRUST

If you are not already member of the Friends of the RWT, it costs just £5 a year, with Life membership £100 (£50 if over 70): contact the Trust on 01428 722162 (Monday-Wednesday mornings) or email us at office@riverweytrust.org.uk—c/o 'Mallards', Rectory Lane, Bramshott, Liphook GU30 7QZ. visit <http://www.riverweytrust.org.uk/>



The River Wey Trust

Our area of interest is the Southern Wey and its Tributaries—the River, its Landscape, its habitats and its history and archaeology.

Newsletter, website, guided walks ('public' or specifically for your group), workparties, interpretation, talks, information.

Much of the Trust's research and archive material is now held at the Liphook Heritage Centre visit <http://www.liphookheritage.org.uk/contact-visit-us/>



The River Wey Trust is a Registered Charity—no. 1177871
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)
visit <http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityWithoutPartB.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1177871&SubsidiaryNumber=0>

This Newsletter

If this is not already happening for you, this Newsletter can also be sent to you as a PDF by email—drop us an email if you'd prefer to hear from us electronically: it will save paper, possibly postage as well, and reach you more promptly, as well as receiving other occasional morsels!

We are always keen to receive contributions and suggestions for material to be included in forthcoming Newsletters.

Date Protection You've all had a sight of mails and correspondence from companies wanting you to 'opt in' to ensure that they are compliant with the General Data Protection Act. The Trust is also obliged to make sure we don't send unwanted correspondence, and will be updating your preference as we collect the annual subscription. As this will be the last newsletter for the current cycle, and if you prefer not to wait until subscription renewal, please respond to this mail requesting that we remove you from the Trust's mailing list. The Trust has in place a Data Protection Policy which details the information we collect and how that is managed and used by the Trust in undertaking our business, and that is available on request. A shorter Privacy statement is available on the Trust's website.

The Wey Landscape Partnership

The Trust works with the Wey Landscape Partnership (hosted by the Surrey Wildlife Trust) which has a landscape-scale catchment-based approach to the whole of the Wey and involves many of its other 'stakeholders' including the Environment Agency, water companies, local authorities, Natural England, fishery organisations and our fellow upper Wey organisations the Northern Wey Trust and Farnham Rivers Group visit <http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/living-landscapes/partnership-and-advocacy>



RiverSearch One product of this and similar Catchment Partnerships is the RiverSearch scheme where a growing number of 'wardens' take 'ownership' of stretches of the river and its corridor: the RWT is increasingly involving itself in this. Visit <http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/living-landscapes/conservation-projects/riversearch> and <https://drive.google.com/open?id=17FRKv0RHfVivfSb1-0LB-k4CcR4&usp=sharing>

DON'T FORGET—THE RWT'S POPULAR **GUIDEBOOK** IS NOW AVAILABLE (only) ON CD—**PRICE JUST £5** incl p&p (£6 with 'jewel case')



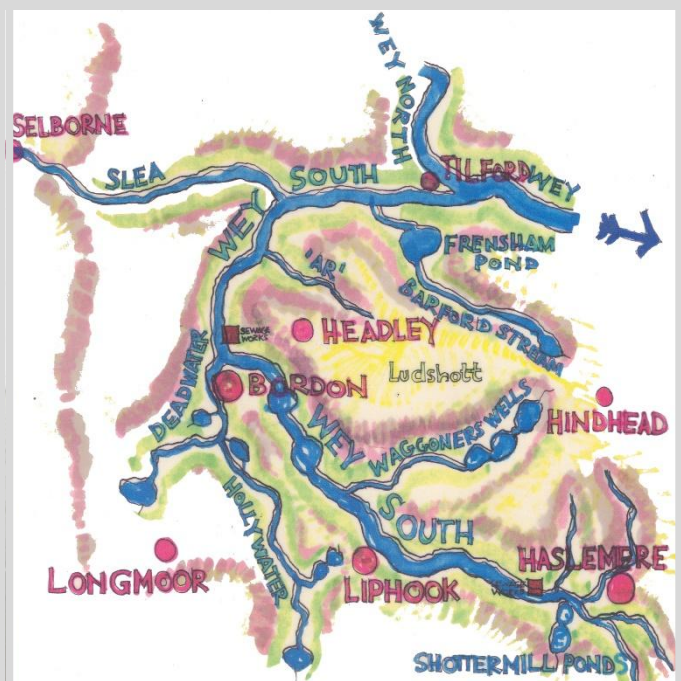
and our own 'leisurewear'

RWT
Sweatshirts and Poloshirts



Sweatshirts £15-00
DARK BLUE OR LIGHT GREY
Poloshirts £12-50
DARK BLUE

The Southern Wey Catchment



Find out more from the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer at <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/ManagementCatchment/3114/Summary>