



**Wear
Rivers
Trust**

Volunteer Bulletin

September 2026

Your monthly update from Wear Rivers Trust



News Round Up

August has been a challenging month for our rivers. With very little rainfall, volunteers have reported low or even no flow at some monitoring sites, alongside unusually high water temperatures. Heavy rain following prolonged dry weather can also wash pollutants from roads and compacted ground into rivers. Thank you to everyone continuing to monitor conditions and report issues. Volunteers have also supported electrofishing surveys to assess fish populations across the catchment, with more opportunities expected in September.



Although we tend to take a break from more practical volunteer tasks in August, an eroded riverbank on the Gaunless benefitted from some green engineering: using locally available materials to protect it from scouring and allow it to regenerate. Thanks to Wendy, Andy and Jim for supporting this on an exceptionally hot summer day. Service-users from Lionmouth Rural Centre began preparing for a similar activity on their land beside the Deerness, by learning how to make brash bundles. We're just waiting on an otter survey before we can proceed with that one.

Our Stanley SuDS+ sustainable urban drainage project is drawing towards its close, and we're keen to record not just how flooding has been mitigated, but also the benefits to nature and the local community (the '+' in the title). Thanks to volunteers who turned out recently to collect invertebrate data and check out habitats at a newly developed green space. SuDS+ activities continue in September.



Finally, we're always happy to hear from other groups who want to engage with us and offer their time, from Cubs and Scouts through to Durham University staff and their families. The University group threw themselves into an energetic litter pick along the Wear near Wolsingham and did a fantastic job. We couldn't achieve half of what we do without volunteer contributions of all kinds: thank you!



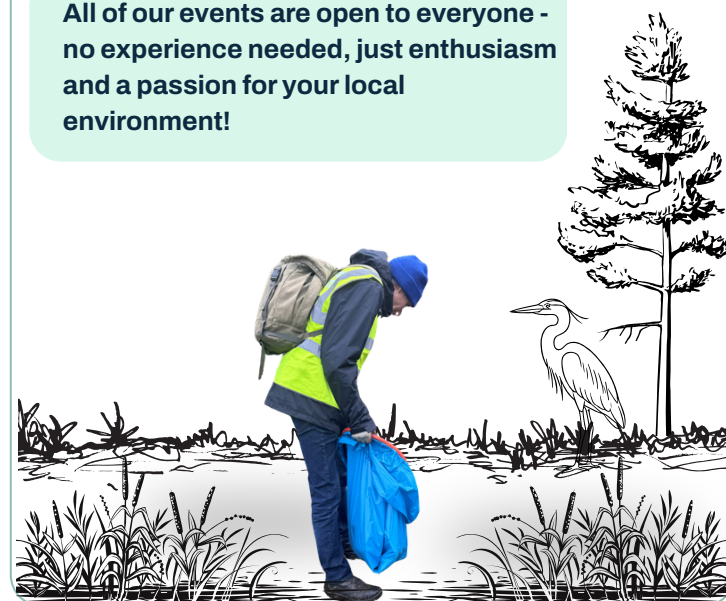
To all of our volunteers, new and experienced, for your time, curiosity and care. You are making a real difference for our rivers and communities.



Upcoming Opportunities

Date	Event	Location
Sunday 30 August	 Riverside Park Litter Pick	Chester-le-Street
Thursday 3 rd September	 SuDS+ Meadow Management	Stanley
Tuesday 8 th September	 Gaunless Litter Pick	St Helen Auckland
Saturday 19 th September	 Riverfly On the Road	Castle Eden Dene
Varied Dates	 Fish Fridays - Electrofishing Support	Varied Locations
18 th -24 th September	 Big River Watch	Your Local River

All of our events are open to everyone - no experience needed, just enthusiasm and a passion for your local environment!



How to get involved

All of our opportunities can be accessed and registered for via our volunteering portal [Wear Rivers Trust promoting and developing volunteering in your area.](#)

Sign up there, or get in touch to find out more by emailing volunteering@wear-rivers-trust.org.uk

If you are part of a business or corporate group interested in team volunteering activities, please contact Jack Butlin: jack.butlin@wear-rivers-trust.org.uk



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Wear Rivers Trust



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