

Risborough Environmental Group – The Story So Far

It all started in October 2017, when founder member of REG, Cath Campbell, used her social networking skills and extensive list of contacts to instigate the current litter picking scheme, undertaken by a team of volunteers in the Princes Risborough area. This project continues to gather momentum, with ever increasing numbers of volunteers and volumes of waste collected.

Later in 2018 Cath was joined by Martyn Jarvis, Frances Wrigley and Steve Jeanes in creating REG and this steering group hosted a well-attended inaugural public meeting on 8 November 2018. Subsequently, the addition of Lavinia Wilson has brought the management complement to five.

The above group brings to the table skills and experience which include environmental monitoring, waste and recycling, chemistry, geography, engineering, botany, landscape design, I.T, team management and project management.

Inspiration, guidance and support for the stated objective of *providing opportunities for local, active volunteers to maintain and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of the area*, was initially obtained by visits and communication with other local initiatives: Greening Chinnor, Watlington Environment Group and Cuttlebrook Nature Reserve (Thame). Material assistance was also gratefully received from Princes Risborough Town Council, Wycombe and Chiltern District Councils.

The second project that REG are actively engaged in is the survey of the three local streams (Horsenden Stream, Crowbrook and Culverton Brook) with a view to identifying and mapping locations for monitoring chemical quality and invertebrate populations on a monthly basis. The aim of collaboration with the Chiltern Conservation Board's 'Water in A Dry Landscape' project has been furthered by training and support from Allen Beechey. The above watercourses channel flow to the northwest, being part of the River Thames catchment area and RTCT's Project Officer, Hannah Worker, has recently been working closely with REG, from the office and in the field, to provide much appreciated technical guidance and assistance in addition to some basic monitoring equipment.

In the near future REG plan to engage with the 'Rough Around The Edges' project headed by CCB's Nick Marriner, whom they initially encountered explaining the 'Chalk, Cherries and Chairs' initiative for the Chilterns. The idea of the project is to identify parcels of land suitable for a subsequent minimal management regime, which will encourage the development of a more natural appearance, friendly to native flora and fauna.

Other REG input includes coordinated responses to local plan development consultations and other such proposals from local government. There is also a list of

local activities and events (REGister) which is updated and distributed to REG friends and volunteers, to advise of upcoming items of interest provided by REG and other environmental bodies.

Martyn Jarvis 19/1/2019