

# water

## Wild About The Erme River

Hello WATER supporters!

We wanted to give you an update on the activities that have been happening in WATER over the past few months. Since our incredible meeting at The Watermark in Ivybridge, we've had such positive support from the community - and firstly we'd like to thank you all for your efforts and time given to support the various projects that are already underway - more about those below.

For those of you who haven't yet had chance to get involved - there are details below of the active projects and also ones in the pipeline that may need support in the future - so if something catches your eye, please do get in touch and we can direct you to the right person.

### Dippers feature in BBC article and on Spotlight!

Did you spot our amazing Dippers on BBC spotlight last week? If not, you can read all about it [here](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-65916304);

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-65916304>

Get in touch with us

## Active Projects

### Bathing Water Designation - Coastguards Beach



'Protecting Wild Waters' campaign, we are making an application for designated bathing water status at Coastguards beach.

Achieving designation will be an important step in protecting water users and those that enjoy spending time around our river. Once a location has been given this status, the Environment Agency will monitor the water quality at this site, informing bathers of how safe the water is to enter and take steps to improve it if it falls below standard.

As part of our application, we are required to carry out a consultation to feedback the views from our community and visitors to the area. We would be very pleased if you could help us by completing this short survey. It should take about 5 minutes.

[Complete the survey](#)

## Dippers *Citizen Science Initiatives*



The 'Dippers' are a group of trained volunteers who regularly sample ('dip') water from the Erme and upload the data to be analysed and stored. This projects is run under the Westcountry Rivers Trust's citizen science arm who can provide all the training and test kits required.

The main purpose of the exercise is to identify sources of repeated pollution so that further, more sophisticated tests can be undertaken to identify the exact cause, while building respect for the river and for its nature.

Testing river water is fun and very straightforward, best with done two people or more, it usually takes about half an hour and should be done once a month or more and if possible after heavy rain. There is now an army of enthusiastic citizen scientists busy dipping and keeping in touch with WhatsApp, but more volunteers are always needed!

If you'd like to be a 'Dipper' for your part of the Erme catchment get in touch with us below;

[Enquire about Dippers](#)



Many possible projects have been identified focusing on understanding the state of the river/defining the issue. These range from monitoring key indicator species & identifying invasive species to mapping key priority habitats. We are working to build connections with key stage holders such as the West Country Rivers Trust, Devon WildlifeTrust, Natural England, Catchment Sensitive Farming & Farming Wildlife Advisor Group and many more.

Please get in touch if you have any interest in monitoring or can help with networking.

[Get in touch](#)

## Prospective Projects

### Ludbrook Lives

*A place-based community engagement project*



'Lud Brook Lives' will celebrate the history and future of this beautiful part of the Erme River catchment. It will invite diverse perspectives on the question: 'how can we be effective landscape custodians amid the challenges of our time?'

The project has several elements in development; these will be shared at a community event and art exhibition in 2025;

- Rachael will be listening to and recording the stories of local people – exploring how lives, land and water have shaped one another in living memory.
- Local printmaker, Sara Gilbert, will be exhibiting a series of hand printed artworks inspired by Lud Brook Lives
- Local volunteers will continue monitoring the health of the Lud Brook. They will share their findings and there will be opportunities to join in and have a go at citizen science
- Bugs, flies and fish: projects with local children will explore non-human Lud Brook lives
- Wonderful wildlife footage, collected by local people, will be gathered and presented
- There will be opportunities for the community to share examples of work happening to care for our river landscape

If you would like to find out more about this project, or get involved, please contact Rachael

[Find out more](#)

## STEERING GROUP

We have recently had meetings across the catchment with West Country Rivers Trust, Environment Agency and South Devon Rivers Champions to discuss support and future plans for WATER group. If you wish to find out more information about topics discussed, please contact Charlotte Grezo.

A reminder of Steering Group contacts - if you have any questions relating to any WATER activities, wish to get involved in some way but not sure how, or simply want to ask questions about our future plans - please get in touch with one of us below;

### **Chair**

Charlotte Grezo  
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### **Deputy Chair**

Tim Poate  
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### **Deputy Chair / Networking & Engagement workstream**

John Mildmay-White  
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### **Water based workstream**

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#### Communications

Gemma Onslow / Bel Dixon

e: pr@ermeriver.org

We are always looking for more volunteers so if you would like to get involved or to know more about how you can support the work of the WATER Group, please email us [info@ermeriver.org](mailto:info@ermeriver.org).

If you would like to receive updates from us, please sign up to our mailing list by clicking the button below and completing the sign up form.

[Sign up to our newsletter](#)



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