

# The River Dour

Deborah Gasking

## River Cleans with Volunteers.

Every 2-3 weeks White Cliffs Countryside Partnership continue to have a positive impact, and presence on the river too.

These are attracting new and regular volunteers and always generate interest and gratitude from the public as they pass by.

And, just like that... *Our Finest Dour* is in its final year of funding.

## School Engagement.

Schools and river dipping activities are booked up each week. These sessions focus on learning about the River Dour and how to help it. They continue to be extremely popular and efficient at getting children interested in their local river wildlife.

## The River Dour Centre Celebration Week.

This will be held Monday 14 August – Sunday 20 August. The aim is to have the River Dour Centre, at Buckland Bridge, well used by the public, contractors and interested parties now that COVID-19 hesitance has passed, and the River Dour



*River Dour Clean Up 2nd June 2023*

officer is back from leave. Nature walks, storytelling, archaeological presentations, children's activities and art/craft workshops are all to take place during the week. Some of these will have to be bookable given how small the space is!

## Water Crowfoot Translocation.

Chalk stream water crowfoot is a key plant species for chalk rivers. It regulates flow and helps oxygenate the water, is vital habitat for river fly and provides trout and bird life with shelter and food.

Sadly, it was lost from much of the upper Dour a few years ago, perhaps from a pollution event in River. White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, with a local Parish councillor, wants to see if it would be possible to re-establish it up stream once again. It has never been done successfully, but we will learn from this experiment whether it works or not to get the chalk stream water crowfoot back throughout the River Dour. During the next few river cleans we will collect seed to distribute in the river to see if we can get this important plant flourishing in the upper Dour as it should be, once again.

## World Rivers Day Discover the Dour

This World Rivers Day join White Cliffs Countryside Partnership on Sunday 24th September on behalf of Dover Arts Development to discover the River Dour on a 'walk, stop and talk'.

As funding for the *Our Finest Dour* Heritage Lottery Fund project will end this November, a strategy to leave some legacy (if more funding is not secured) is ongoing.