

The River Dour

Deborah Gasking

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to our long-term River Ranger, Iona, as she is going back to her family's home in New Zealand with her toddler daughter and partner. All we river volunteers wish her well for her young family's future, but she will be massively missed. Iona's personality and dedication generated a huge friendship group of volunteers and has been very successful in gaining funding grants.

We now have our River Dour Centre at Buckland Bridge which has been used with school nature study groups and as a hub for tea and coffee making for us volunteers. Further programmes will follow.

Several grants have provided equipment for volunteers on our regular litter-picks.

Pond dipping at Buckland Bridge and the steps facilitating these activities were also initiated and led by Iona.

These few are from the top of my head, as I am very late in submitting my regular

report! So read all this and magnify her contribution to our town's magic watery feature.

Iona's replacement is the great Martha who has already introduced herself on the latest litter-pick expedition. She is a lively, well qualified and experienced ranger, and all we volunteers are looking forward to a great time together.

And finally, after eighteen months of negotiation and patience, the newest piece of wall art will be produced on the Barton School wall, backing onto Barton Path, and will be happening this Spring. This is thanks to Laura and Dawn at Dover smART Project, who gained Arts Council funding. Dawn and I attended a January assembly at Barton School to introduce the project to the pupils who will (with guidance) be producing nature-based panels, the whole being eventually depicted on the large wall by two professional wall artists. How satisfying is this!

Letter to the Editor



Pencester Gardens

2024 marks one hundred years since Pencester Gardens were opened to the public. I have asked the leader of Dover District Council the following question for the full council meeting:

"2024 marks a century since Pencester Gardens were opened to the public in 1924.

What plans does Dover District Council have to celebrate this important anniversary for Dover?"

Graham Wanstall
Dover Town Councillor