



# East Yorkshire Chalk Rivers Trust

EAST YORKSHIRE CHALK RIVERS TRUST

Newsletter 4 - June 2010

## NEW EYCRT LOGO

The Trust has adopted a new logo shown as follows:



## Sea trout smolts in the Gypsey Race

Prior to the annual EA Fisheries team electro-fishing survey in October 2009 at various sites along the Gypsey Race, a walking survey of the river (bed) and isolated pools at Boynton (the river was still dried up above and below Boynton) revealed one interesting pool which was subsequently electro-fished and found to hold 14 small trout of 1+ years indicating they hatched from migratory parent fish in the Gypsey Race. Another first for this enigmatic small northern chalk river!



## OPERATION 'GYPSEY RACE'

In November 2009 the new YWA water pipeline project taking water from Haisthorpe to both Filey and Irton crossed the Gypsey Race at a point just above Willow Garth SSSI. The work programme was carried out by the contractor for Yorkshire Water, Laing O'Rourke. The

water pipe was laid across the river but at depth using the open cut method in agreement with the Environment Agency. The actual operation took just one day with streambed and bankside restoration being completed at the end of the day. Fine tuning of the streambed shaping was

done by hand the following day. The EYCRT has been present throughout negotiations with the contractors and EA and to also being on site when the pipe was being laid. The Trust is to be consulted prior to the final bankside restoration taking place in May 2010.



# PRESENTATION OF A CHEQUE

The Trust received a cheque for £571.99 from Laing O'Rourke for assisting with negotiations with the EA in respect of the laying of the new YWA water main across the path of the Gypsy Race, and giving on-site advice especially in respect to seasonal stream flows.



## New Chairman

Professor Ian Cowx is Director of the Hull International Fisheries Institute. He has been involved with the aquatic environment both locally and internationally for many years.

Ian joined the Trust in its inaugural year and has been an active Trustee along with his busy University duties.

On the resignation of our last Chairman, Simon Johnson, Ian took over the position and has over the past year proved to be a valuable asset to the Trust.

The Trust works closely with the Degree students from the Hull International Fisheries Institute and initiates field studies on various river improvement projects.

## Alien weed control



*Japanese Knot Weed at Thorpe Hall near Bridlington*



## ART Presentation

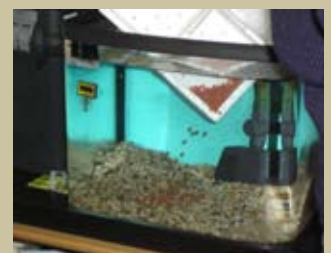
The Association of Rivers Trusts Northern Director, Alistair Maltby, presents an award for Outstanding Volunteer to Alan Mullinger, a founder Director & Secretary of the Trust.



*Packing the eggs for school*



*The children look at the eggs before they are introduced to the hatching tank*



# Schools FISH Programme

With the success of the 2009 programme under our 'belt' we launched the 2010 programme early January to include the following primary schools: Green Way in Hull, Cherry Burton (for the second year running), North Frodingham and Tickton. Also included in the programme for this year is Bishop Burton College.

Despite deep snow cover in the Pickering area early in January the trout eggs were successfully collected

and brought back to the schools where they were introduced to the pupils before being placed in the aquaria.

Some three months later each school has achieved successful hatchings of the eggs and at the time of writing (Easter break) the trout fry are being fed on a daily basis, usually by a keen and



*Tickton Primary School*



*North Frodingham Primary School*

very cooperative school caretaker during the holiday period. A big thank you to those unsung heroes of the schools.



# CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING INITIATIVE

As with other Rivers Trusts throughout the country, the East Yorkshire Chalk Rivers Trust is an active member of the Catchment Sensitive Farming Group covering the East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire areas.

The group works with farming interests to educate and advise in good farming practice specifically aimed at reducing point source and diffuse pollution to streams and watercourses.

We have sponsored one of our trustees to undergo training in the delivery of farm advisory visits to assist farmers and riparian owners in achieving these environmental gains through good farming practices.



## Water Forlorns Update

Following our last report in the 2009 Newsletter the Trust has been awarded £20,000 for the planned restoration project on this urban watercourse.

Consultations are ongoing with the local and regional councils, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

As the project aims to

improve the habitat for many species, we need to take account of the bird and mammal populations that are present in small numbers along this urban watercourse.

When the consultation is complete it is hoped that some improvement work can start this coming autumn.



## Foston Beck Capital Farm Scheme

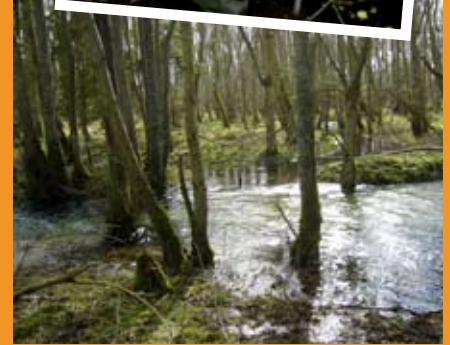
The Trust partnered Natural England's Rural Payments Agency in a farm project that created 400 metres of river bank protection. The project also changed the use of riverside stock watering by the provision of drinking troughs. This scheme protected the stream bank from stock trampling and is helping to reduce the ingress of silt to the Foston Beck which is designated a SSSI.



# Carr Plantation trout fry

A thousand+ trout fry were introduced to the Gypsey Race at Carr plantation between Boynton and Rudston in March 2010. During the extreme dry conditions parts of the river experienced in late Summer 2009 Carr plantation remained viable in terms of

water flow and temperature with a number of relatively deep pools being maintained. A temperature logger was installed in the river at the end of August 2009 to help continuously monitor the water temperature every six hours...for the next year!



## NATURE NOTES FROM THE RIVERBANK

### The Kingfisher

For those who know the River Hull and its associated watercourses, the Kingfisher is a relatively common sight. As you sit or walk quietly along the riverbank, a sudden flash of iridescent blue and orange may be all that you see. Often a more tell tale sign is the loud, shrill piping whistle of a call.

The Kingfisher spends all year in the UK and can suffer in severe winters with many birds simply starving to death due to cold and frozen pools and ponds. Its main food prey is small fish, but it will also fish for aquatic invertebrates and young amphibians. Favoured spots along the river are where a pool can be found with low overhanging branches of trees such as willow or alder, where it will perch looking down before diving into the water to catch its prey.

In early spring birds pair up and both will dig a tunnel in an earth bank. The tunnel can be up to 3ft (1m) long ending in a bowl shaped nest chamber. Up to 7 whitish blue eggs are laid, with both male and female taking turns to incubate. The

eggs hatch after around 21 days and young birds will not leave the nest and fledge until they are around 4 weeks old. During this time both parent birds bring food and the nest chamber can become very dirty and smelly, with a mixture of young birds droppings and remains of fish prey.

On leaving the nest, young birds look similar to adult birds, but on closer inspection there are several minor differences. The most tell tale are the white tip to their beak and darker coloured feet (adults have reddish orange feet), whilst their plumage is somewhat duller and markings less distinct than the parent birds. The young will remain with the parent birds for a couple of weeks, learning how to catch prey, whilst also relying on the parents to get enough food, until they become proficient hunters.

Today the Kingfisher doesn't have many natural enemies and any predators that do catch them, may not eat them, as their flesh has an unpleasant taste. In years gone by, man used to catch them to use the bright plumage for tying fishing flies as well as being used in fashion to add colour to ladies hats, hat pins and brooches.

So next time you visit the river, listen out for the high pitched whistle and you may catch a glimpse of a flash of blue as this master of the natural fishing world whizzes by.

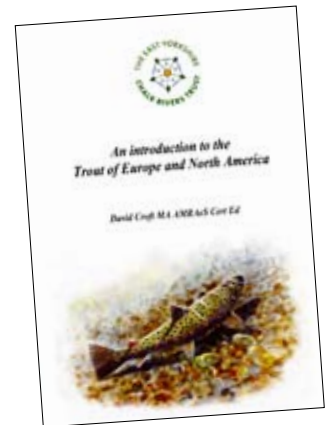
*Jon Traill – April 2010*



## Reports and manuals:

A 'Teachers Trout Manual' was produced and distributed to participating schools for the 2010 FISH programme.

Intended for reference use by teachers it contains information about the early worldwide transport of brown trout, European and American trout species as well as other related subjects.



A report of a recent study (by an EYCRT member) of the Lower Gypsey Race was completed during 2009 and a copy sent to the Bridlington Regeneration Team following a meeting with a representative at Bridlington Town Hall. The position relating to migratory trout and eels in respect of the Gypsey Race was outlined in the report. A follow-up report was sent in March 2010 to the Biodiversity Officer of East Yorkshire County Council.

An electronic reference document relating to Trout and (the effects of) Turbulence was produced early 2010. The document is intended to help with those planning to install trout holding devices in streams.