



WYE NEWS

21 June 2016

66 baby trout reared in Wooburn classroom released into River Wye

On Thursday last week 66 baby brown trout reared in a classroom tank made the short journey from St Pauls School Wooburn to their new home in the natural chalk stream habitats of the nearby River Wye. The young fish, grown from eggs over the last four months in a specially designed aquarium, had been very carefully looked after by the St Pauls' schoolchildren, under the supervision of the school's teachers and staff.



Photos taken by Barrie Penfold of Target Magazine

Schoolchildren Libby Armstrong and Jack Baker carefully transferred the baby fish from a large plastic bucket into plastic cups and then into the stream (*see below*).



This new project for the school was initiated by Allen Beechey, the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project Officer, as part of the Chilterns 'Trout in the Classroom' programme. Six schools took part this year, most releasing their fish into the River Chess, but St Pauls is the first school to breed trout destined for the River Wye. The specialised equipment and training necessary to carry out the project was funded by the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project and the Open Spaces Committee of Wooburn and Bourne End Parish Council.

An objective of 'Trout in the Classroom' is to teach schoolchildren about brown trout, their life-cycle and the special importance of the Chiltern chalk streams in which they live. Caring for the fish fosters in the children the importance of nature conservation and the need to look after the quality of our English chalk streams.



Allen Beechey shows the children some of the range of Mini-beasts (invertebrates) that exist in the River Wye, with Mrs Jo Butler, Deputy Head of St Pauls, Cllr Margaret Marshall from the Parish Council and Mike Overall, Chairman of the Revive the Wye Partnership, looking on.

The Revive the Wye Steering Group hopes to arrange for other schools close to the River Wye to participate in the Trout in the Classroom programme.

Interested schools along the Wye corridor and potential funders should contact Allen Beechey at ABeechey@chilternsaonb.org

To learn more about Trout in the Classroom visit - <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/about-chilterns/chalk-streams/chalk-streams-project/education.html>

To learn more about the Revive the Wye community partnership initiative visit - <http://www.revivethewye.org.uk>

Note:

Revive the Wye is a Partnership of local environmental charities and other bodies. It was formed in 2007. Over the years, an increasing range of activities have been organised to support its aims of improving the habitats of the River Wye and its associated other water bodies, making the River Wye corridor a better place for wildlife to live, as well as for people to visit and enjoy.