

What we've been doing

Here are some of our successes to date:

- ◆ Trail camera photos of a variety of birds and mammals, including several rarely seen - kingfisher, heron, egret, badger and stoat
- ◆ The removal of various non-native species (mink) leading to the return of otters - at least one young otter family has been seen
- ◆ School children from Newport Primary enjoying an afternoon at the river and a nature walk learning about the local water courses and the wider environment



- ◆ Students from the local secondary schools involved in water quality and river fly testing
- ◆ Local interest growing through presentations about our work to the Parish Council and other local, town and regional organisations and interests, along with social groups including Debden Grange Retirement Village and Newport History Group
- ◆ The beginning of Belmont Wood restoration; to provide a natural flood defence, a brilliant new habitat, increased biodiversity, storing winter rains to keep the Cam flowing during drought, filtering out loads of pollutants and absorbing three times as much carbon as the equivalent area of woodland
- ◆ Anglian Water agreeing to accelerate work to update the Water Treatment Works this year with phosphate stripping and a £million upgrade by 2026
- ◆ Contact <http://www.affinitywater.co.uk/saveourstreams/> to get free kitchen, bathroom and outdoor water-saving devices.

We're part of the Cam Upper Reaches Action Team (CURAT).

We can send you our occasional newsletter if you want to find out more or to get involved in our work, email us at info@curat.org.uk



**NEWPORT
RIVER GROUP**

Our beautiful River Cam

A rare and unique chalk stream environment and habitat, supporting native wildlife as it flows through Newport.

Fish, birds, mammals, vegetation – think: ducks, dragonflies, kingfishers, otters, shrimp, herons...



NRG is part of curat.org.uk



We're a group of volunteers

...and we are passionate about our river!

You may have seen us out and about testing the quality of the water, or on the Newport Newline Facebook Page or in Newport News magazine. We've been active for over 3 years doing loads of stuff to help the river recover.

We need your help!

Help us restore our precious River Cam so that it is alive with wildlife for us all to see, experience and enjoy, because the Cam is struggling, as the many demands and changes in Newport over time have severely reduced its habitats and the types of plants and animals that live on and in it.



What you can do



A major problem affecting the health of our river is pollution which comes from **ALL OF US**. We are all the source of much of this.

FACT:

Nearly all sewage spills in Newport are due to blockages in the sewers caused by **wet wipes** and build-up of fats – including the awful sewage spill in JFAN grounds last December that Anglian Water cleared up within a day.



Wet wipes should NEVER be flushed down the loo – only flush what comes out of the body and toilet paper – nothing else - ever.



What more can we all do?

Our water comes from natural underground reservoirs (aquifers) which are running dry. We waste a massive amount of water by using far more than we actually need.

Ways to change our water usage

For starters, think less time in the shower (and fitting a free water aerator from Affinity Water saves 6 litres per shower). Turn off the tap when cleaning your teeth. Use full loads for your washing machine and dishwasher. Use buckets for car washing and a watering can on the garden instead of a hose. And save money on your metered water bill of course.

We also need to be alert to 'in home' pollution.

Do you know about the cleaning products under our sinks?



On the back you may see the red diamond with a warning symbol which says, "harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects" – these are nasty chemicals disappearing down our plugholes and loos. Try ecofriendly products instead.

Reducing pollution and wastage of water from the home are the biggest opportunities we all have to make a difference. We should all think about what happens before we turn on the tap and after we pull the plug or flush the loo.

Help us please – be part of the solution!