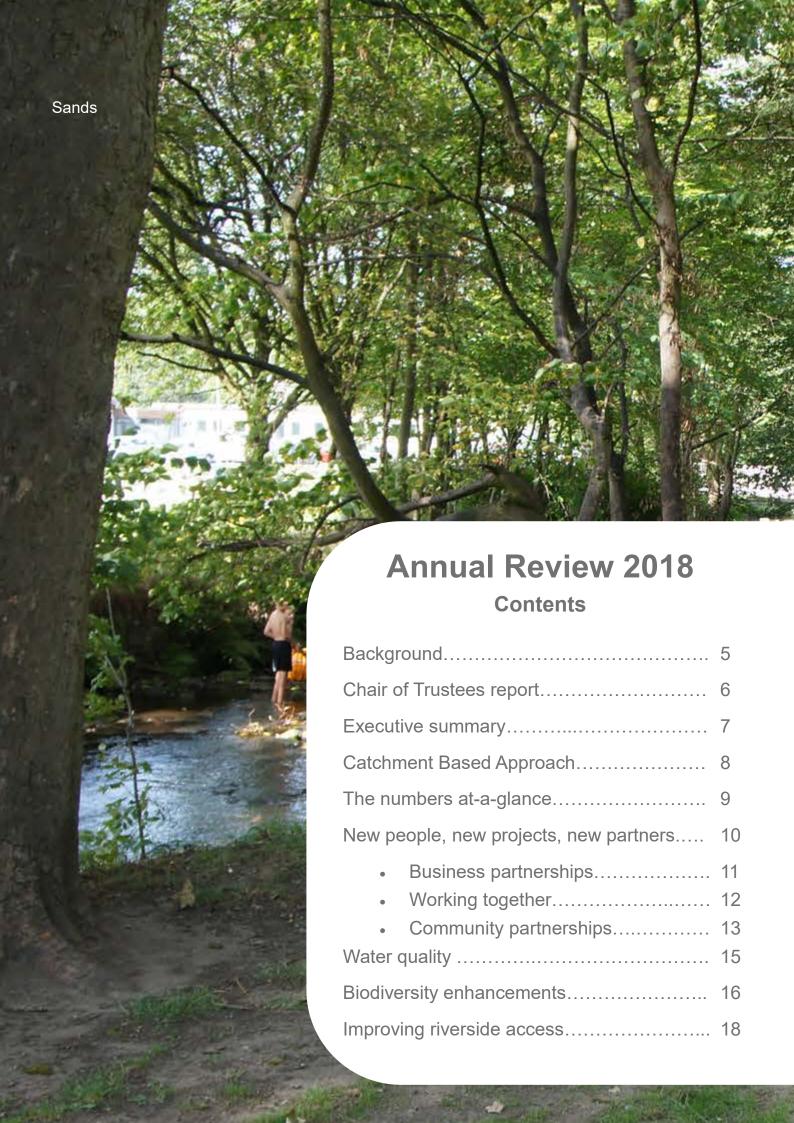
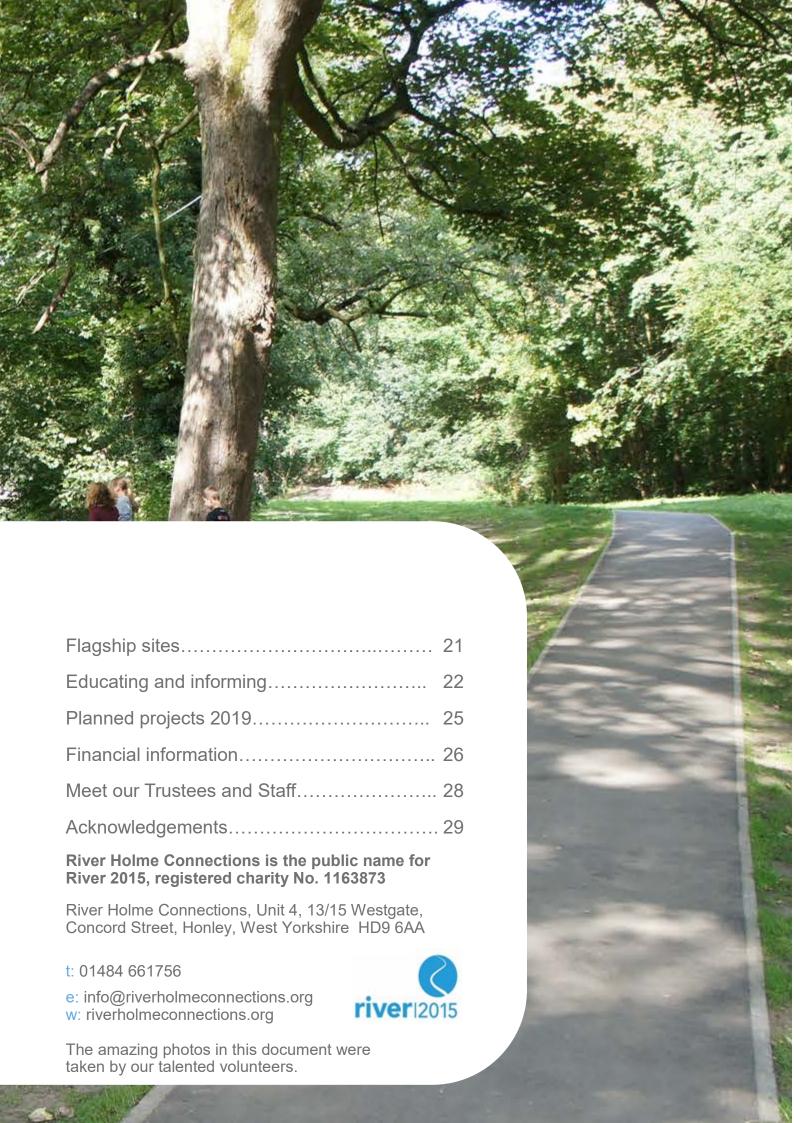
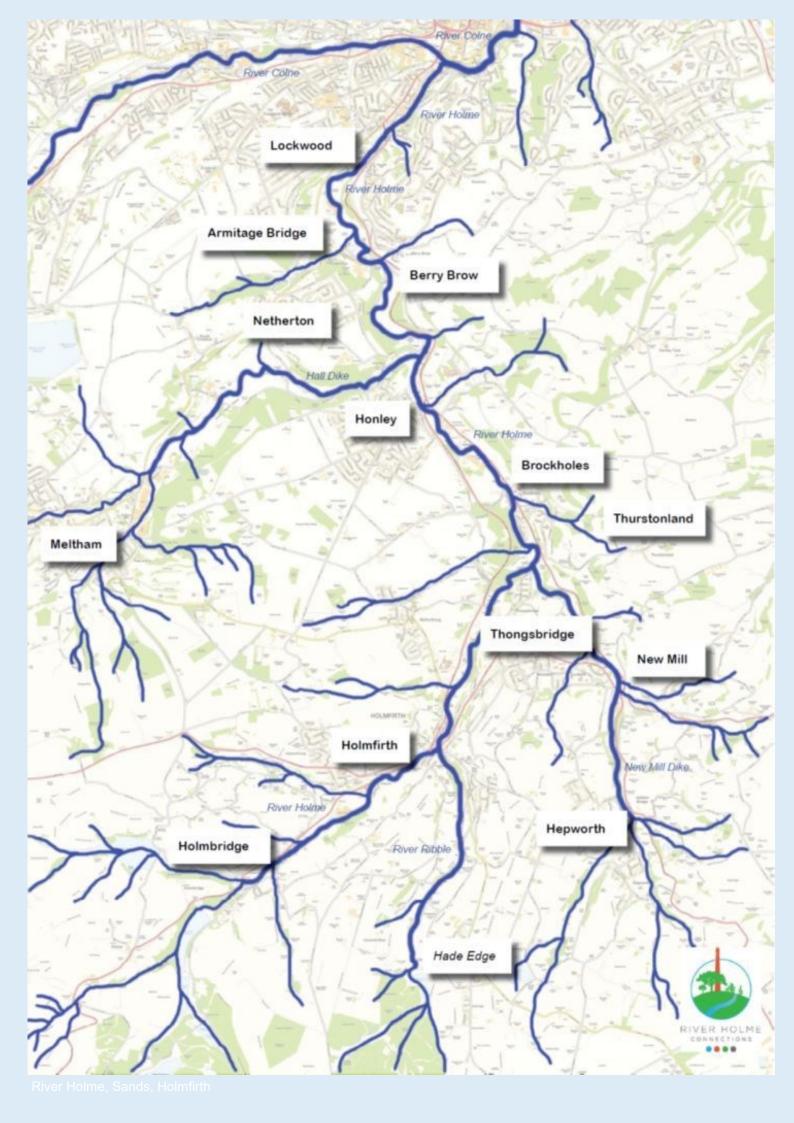


# River Holme Connections Annual Report 2018









## **Background**

The River Holme has been the lifeblood of communities for centuries, with villages and industries growing up along its banks.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the textile industry used the river for powering mills and washing yarn. A few mills and dyehouses remain active today.

Further downstream, in Victorian times, Lockwood was hailed as a spa town to rival Harrogate. The area next to the river behind Albert Street still bears the name Spa Wood

The river has always been central to life in the Holme Valley yet years of

unintentional neglect resulted in invasive species taking hold, litter pollution and riverbank erosion. Meanwhile, buildings and infrastructure have reduced access to the river.

In 2015, the charity River 2015 was established with the aim of restoring the health of the River Holme and improving access for all.

Today, using the public name River
Holme Connections and with the help of
dedicated volunteers, the charity is
passionate about making the River
Holme a better to place for people and
wildlife.

#### The River Holme Catchment

The source of the River Holme is on the moorland above Holmfirth. Precipitation falling within the surrounding area will eventually drain into the River Holme, one of the many tributaries, perhaps the

River Ribble, Meltham Dike or New Mill Dike, or directly into the larger River Colne, which is joined by the River Holme at Aspley near Huddersfield town centre.

#### Ambition and strategy

Since 2015, at River Holme Connections, we've implemented a number of projects to improve the River Holme.

Using the community-led 'Catchment Based Approach', we've actively engaged with people and groups from across all sectors of society to help improve our local rivers.

Capital work has taken place at several key sites, and we're continuing to work our way through the river catchment, improving access, removing invasive species and creating improved habitats for wildlife. This work will also help us to help the Environment Agency to achieve its goal of bringing the River Holme catchment to 'Good' standard by 2025.

# Chair's report by Adrian Barraclough



Chair Adrian Barraclough

Amazingly we're in our fifth year as a charity, and it's satisfying to see that we're delivering our ambition to improve the River Holme for wildlife, people and business. As you'll read here, there is much to celebrate... but we want to achieve so much more.

Support, both financial and time, from individuals, business, community groups and partners, such as Cobbett Environmental, Cummins and Kirklees, has enabled 2018 to be another fantastic year for River Holme Connections. We couldn't have done it without you – thank you.

# "...there is much to celebrate... but we want to achieve so much more."

The team has changed over the year. Jane, Kim and Dan's expertise was strengthened with the addition of our knowledgeable River Steward Simon and communications specialist, Jeanette. Alex, a Huddersfield University media student also made a valuable contribution during his placement with us. At the end of 2018, however, we said farewell and a huge thank you to Kim, who has worked tirelessly for many years to bring the charity's values to life.

During the year, the team supported by seven trustees who all live in the catchment, together

2019 is the Year of Green Action, which encourages events and activities that open people's eyes to the natural world. It's a great opportunity to inspire more people to connect with nature and benefit from the mental and physical rewards it can bring. Research shows that access to green space can build self-confidence and self-esteem, create a positive mental wellbeing and a strong sense of purpose.

We're fortunate to have a wealth of natural beauty on our doorstep. Yet there are still many people in our local communities who don't know that river walks are within easy reach of their home. We can also be guilty of taking our amazing rivers and countryside for granted. After decades of taking from the natural

with volunteers, delivered significant footpath and access improvements at Sands Recreation ground, Holmfirth Duck Feeding Area and Meltham Pleasure Grounds, as well as starting a riverside community project at Spa Wood.

We've learned through community consultation and engagement that these places hold an important place in people's hearts: from those who have a story to tell, to those visiting these special places for the first time.

## "the River Holme provides rich and rewarding experiences"

environment, it's time for us to give something back, which is why we'll continue working to restore natural habitats while improving access, so that more people can appreciate the need to care for our natural resources.

After all, the River Holme provides rich and rewarding experiences whether walking the dog, star gazing or just taking time out. You might even see that elusive kingfisher, photographed by one of our volunteers!

However you choose to connect with us and the River Holme we look forward to welcoming you. As always, we have plenty we want to achieve.

# **Executive summary**

2018 was a busy and exciting year for River Holme Connections as the charity, in effect, came of age. Major capital projects took a step closer to completion, and local people and businesses are recognising the value and benefits that our work is having on the local area

Income rose slightly by just over 4%, thanks to successful funding bids. It was boosted by a significant grant from the Cummins Foundation to complete a community engagement and environmental improvement project known as *Our Holme*, at Spa Wood in Lockwood.

Early 2019 will see the finishing touches applied to three capital projects, namely the Duck Feeding Area and Sands in Holmfirth and Bottoms Mill near Hinchcliffe Mill.

In July, Simon Hirst joined the team as River Steward, which increased engagement, especially among volunteers, who remain as valuable as ever to our charity's work.

They donated an incredible 2,601 volunteer hours in 2018. It's their continued support that allows us to undertake our ambitious projects. With their help we've cleared tonnes of rubbish from the river and banks, treated 19.9km of Japanese knotweed, held 12 talks and 65 events and work parties.

Work continues with young people, the future custodians of the river. The *Our Holme* project will be instrumental in giving more young people and their families, the opportunity to discover and benefit from the river environment.

Over the past 12 months, social media and local press have been important in spreading our message. Engagement over all social media platforms has increased and press coverage worth almost £25,000 achieved.

2019 promises to be equally busy and exciting. For now, we'd like to send our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, partner organisations, staff and trustees.



## **Catchment Based Approach**

The River Holme and its tributaries consist of more than 25 miles of waterways, travelling through several well-populated villages. In order for our small River Holme Connections team to make a big difference, we've adopted the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA).

This tried and tested national initiative was developed to promote collaborative working throughout a river's catchment area to provide environmental, social and economic benefits.

In practical terms, this means that we work with local communities to discover what the river means for them, and what they want from the river – safe accessible paths, places to visit, natural habitats for wildlife.

Whatever their ambitions for the river, our approach is to bring like-minded people together and provide support and guidance to help these local community and voluntary groups turn their vision into reality.

#### Our Catchment Based Approach includes:

- Education
- Improving riverside access
- Practical volunteering
- Partnership working
- Helping wildlife
- Involving local businesses
- Linking with community groups
- Developing green transport links

- Commenting on local plans and developments
- Training and advice
- Arts
- Developing walking routes
- Monitoring and controlling invasive species
- Spreading the word
- Invertebrate monitoring







## The numbers at a glance

# In 2018 we have...



Received 2,601 hours of volunteer input



Held 12 educational talks and walks involving more than 100 people



Held more than 65 events and work parties



Treated 19.9km of river for invasive Japanese knotweed



Engaged 73
young people in outdoor activities



Removed tonnes of rubbish from the river catchment



Invested over £118,000 worth of funding from grants and donations to helping to improve our local rivers







# New people, new projects, new partners

2018 has seen River Holme Connections transition into an established charity that is making a real difference to the river environment, throughout the River Holme catchment.



#### **River steward**

The appointment of River Steward, Simon Hirst, in July has increased the scope and quantity of work undertaken by our charity. Simon's depth of knowledge and experience of river environments is proving invaluable in developing community and business links, accessing new funding streams and improving the River Holme for people and wildlife.

#### **Volunteers**

Volunteer engagement soared during 2018, with **2,601** volunteer hours recorded. A more than 125% increase on 2017 figures.

Volunteers continue to be at the heart of our organisation. Without their help and expertise at all levels, from photography and blog writing to litter picking and planting, we could not achieve the success we've enjoyed and improvements we've made to the River Holme catchment.

In 2018, we achieved:

65 events and work parties resulting in:

- Essential river clean-ups.
- Improvements to riverside routes.
- Design and strategic development work.
- Photography and office research work.

Certified pesticide training for **6** volunteers, enabling them to treat Japanese knotweed and other invasive species, safely and effectively.

2,601
volunteer
hours

98
volunteer

training hours

#### **Communications lead**

A freelance communications lead joined the team in February 2018, to help spread the word about projects and activities via a range of media and direct channels.

#### Business partnerships

#### **Stewardship**

In 2018, we've connected with more than 131 riparian landowners and companies working from riverside premises.

Much of this work has centred around raising awareness of the potential damage to indigenous wildlife and property, caused by invasive species.

As well as working for individual householders, significant stewardship work has taken place on behalf of:

- Burton Safes, Brockholes Japanese knotweed management at riverside location.
- Bower Roebuck, New Mill Dyke invasive plant control, coppicing, river clean-up and creation of dead hedges and habitat piles.
- Camira, Thick Hollins Dyke Meltham river and woodland clean-up, tyre removal and creation of habitat piles.
- Thongsbridge Tennis Club invasive species removal and river clean-ups.
- Holme Valley Camping and Caravan site,
   Thongsbridge invasive species removal, river clean-ups, tree planting and willow spiling.

#### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

Cummins Turbo Technologies have partnered with River Holme Connections to undertake corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, including:

- River clean-ups
- Bridge painting
- Planting activities
- Invasive plant control
- Bird box installation

In 2019, we're looking to develop partnerships with other local companies.







#### Working together

We work in partnership with a number of local organisations, including Kirklees Council, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT), Cummins Turbo Technologies, Natural Kirklees and other local groups within the catchment.

We're also Catchment Champions for the Aire and Calder Catchment Partnership (ACCP), which encourages cross-border

working and best practice regarding river stewardship. In this role, we share information with other River Trusts and statutory bodies including the Environment Agency.

In 2018, we also consolidated and forged new partnerships with local community groups throughout the catchment area.

# Catchment Champions for the Aire and Calderdale Partnership (ACCP)

Significant support from local businesses

#### Support and funding

#### Cobbett Environmental Ltd.

We received significant funding from Cobbett Environmental Ltd. through the Landfill Communities Fund for ongoing capital projects at Sands, the Duck Feeding Area, Bottoms Mill and Spa Wood. They are also funding a Stewardship project.

#### **Cummins Turbo Technologies**

A successful bid to the Cummins Foundation provided funds for a major community project at Spa Wood.

#### Additional funding

We've also received funding from Holme Valley Parish Council, The Co-op Communities Fund, Holmfirth and Meltham Lions, One Community, Longley Farm Fund and more, for projects including:

- Installing information boards at Bottoms Mill.
- Installing information boards at the Duck Feeding Area, Crown Bottom.
- Installing a sculptural bench at the Duck Feeding Area, Crown Bottom.
- Creating community artwork on the bridge at Bridge Lane, Holmfirth.



#### Community partnerships

#### Friends of Meltham Pleasure Grounds

We donated funds to help accelerate their plans to improve Meltham Pleasure Grounds by installing benches and removing invasive species. We've also provided volunteers for litter picking, path improvements and supported their Festival of Light.



#### Café 100

We commissioned a local artist, Mark Harrison, to work with Café 100, which provides a safe place and activities for young people in Holmfirth. Together they created a graffiti-style mural on the Bridge Lane bridge.



#### **Greenstreams**

In partnership with Greenstreams, an organisation dedicated to improving Snow Island near Huddersfield town centre, we're improving river access from Spa Wood, Lockwood to Huddersfield town centre, as part of the Cummins project.

#### Newsome Forum

To determine what local people want from Spa Wood, we're consulting with local community groups in Lockwood, including the Newsome Forum.

#### Schools and youth groups

We've partnered with local schools, scouts and youth groups, running competitions, hosting work parties and practical educational tasks.





#### Water quality

Clean water is essential for life, but only 14% of England's rivers are healthy, according to a 2017 report. Meanwhile, The Rivers Trust has reported that UK fish stocks are declining due to polluted river water.

There's also a cost to the economy with £1.2bn spent each year removing pollutants from water. Add to this the fact that around 80% of ocean plastic comes from inland sources, it's clearly evident that removing litter from rivers is essential for environmental care and public perception.



#### Moving from 'moderate' to 'good'

The Environment Agency designated the River Holme catchment as having 'moderate ecological status' in 2016. We're working hard to improve the water quality and, with the help of volunteers, develop an annual survey to monitor invertebrate and fish populations in specified river areas, from March to September.

#### River clean-ups

We host regular river clean-up events to remove litter from the riverbanks and the river. Throughout the year, we've removed tonnes of rubbish from the catchment.



# **Biodiversity enhancements**

#### Why biodiversity is important

Non-native plant and animal species can upset fragile ecosystems.

Invasive plants, such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, rhododendron, giant hogweed and American skunk cabbage can erode riverbanks and overshadow native plants, reducing the availability of food and habitats for native animal species.

Invasive animals, with no natural predators can decimate native animal and fish populations. American mink, for example, are efficient predators responsible for the decline in native water vole populations. They're also known to prey on kingfishers.

#### Tackling invasive species: Japanese knotweed

Japanese knotweed is classified as a controlled waste product and must be treated by licenced operatives.

Our long-term plan is to rid the Holme River catchment of Japanese knotweed through raising awareness, education and practical control programmes.



2018 was our third year of tackling Japanese knotweed, we've:

- Trained and accredited six individuals to treat Japanese knotweed.
- Treated 19.9km of riverside (up to 3m either side of the banks).
  - 4,929 Japanese knotweed stems injected.
  - 8,475m2 of Japanese knotweed sprayed (size of 33 tennis courts).
- Contacted 131 riparian landowners, with a legal obligation to treat
   Japanese knotweed, about the issue.
- Secured funding from landowners and other partners to continue work in 2019.



#### Tackling invasive species: Himalayan balsam

In the summer, we continued our *Beat the Balsam* campaign, hosting more than 20 Himalayan balsam removal events.

- Continued our Beat the Balsam campaign.
- Run practical Himalayan balsam removal sessions with schools, Scout groups, community groups and local people.



# Tackling invasive species: American skunk cabbage and rhododendron

Working in conjunction with Friends of Meltham Pleasure Grounds and Meltham Walkers are Welcome, we've removed American skunk cabbage, montbretia and rhododendron from a number of areas in and around Meltham Dike, which forms part of the River Holme catchment.







#### Replanting

Over the winter, volunteers and community organisations have grown native plants from seeds, which are now being planted to replace invasive species.









## Improving riverside access

#### Why improving riverside access is important

Our long-term ambition is to provide local people with greater access to the River Holme. In 2018, we've continued with a number of capital projects designed to improve the environment and access for everyone.

#### **Sands Recreation Area**

Sands Recreation Area is Holmfirth's most significant area of flat, publicly accessible open greenspace. In 2017, we drained the boggy area and installed a path giving better access for all, including prams and wheelchair users, through generous funding from Cobbett Environmental Limited.

This year, together with our volunteers we planted native species to create a wildlife-rich meadow.

To raise awareness, and educate visitors about the river, its wildlife and health benefits, we held a community day in association with fairandfunky. Known as Hands at Sands, around 100 individuals attended the event.





#### **Bottoms Mill**

This hidden gem near Hinchcliffe Mill is a haven for wildlife. We want to encourage more people to reconnect with nature and be able to use the path safely, without disturbing native wildlife that lives on and near the riverbank.

In many areas the riverside path is muddy and uneven. In 2018 we commenced a project to resurface the path with local stone.

We also commissioned the design of three information boards, to educate and inform visitors about the wildlife, history and walks associated with Bottoms Mill.

#### **Duck Feeding Area, Crown Bottom, Holmfirth**

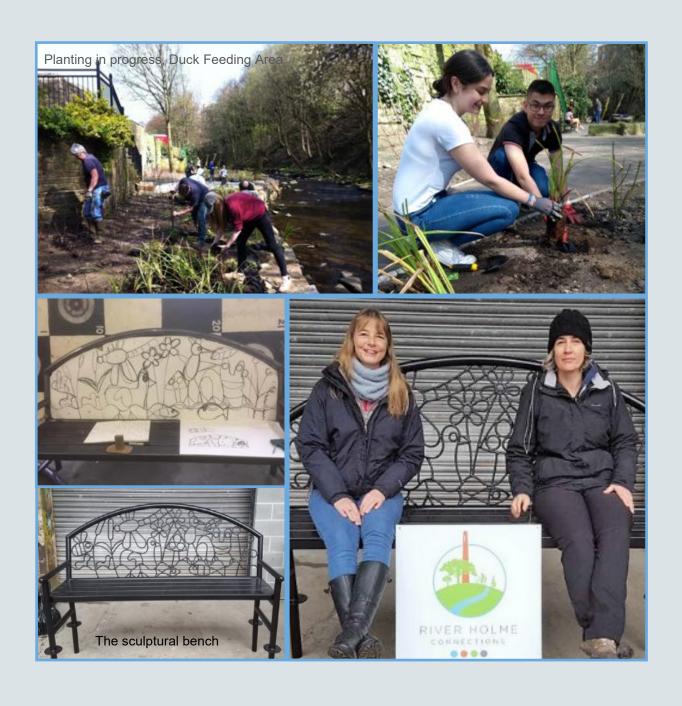
The Duck Feeding Area is one of the only places to access the river in Holmfirth and welcomes 40,000 visitors each year. Our capital project in 2017, resulted in flood management, structural and path improvements.

This year, helped by volunteers, we planted the area with duck-proof and shade resistant native species, including sedge, dogwood and wild flowers.

Working with local metal sculptor, Mick Kirkby-Geddes and internationally

renowned artist, Ashley Jackson, we held a river-themed art competition. Young people were invited to create a design for the architectural benches, that will be designed by Mick and installed at the Duck Feeding Area.

There were more than two dozen entries and Mick incorporated elements of each piece of artwork into his design for the benches. The benches and noticeboards will be installed early 2019.



#### Spa Wood

Spa Wood is a wildlife-rich riverside woodland and walkway, leading from Lockwood Scar to Kings Bridge. The path passes the confluence of the Colne and Holme and continues to Snow Island at Aspley on the edge of Huddersfield town centre.

Fly tipping, misuse and unintentional neglect resulted in Spa Wood becoming an overgrown and, at times, unsociable area.

In September 2018, we were awarded funding through the Cummins Community Foundation for a year-long community project to create a safe, outdoor green space for leisure, education and conservation.





#### **Young Explorers Day**

In October 2018, we held a Young Explorers day at Spa Wood, to raise awareness of the area among local residents, and educate young people about wildlife and how to look after our natural environment.

Volunteers helped to run the event, which involved DASH, a local charity that works with refugees and disadvantaged families.

The event was also used as an opportunity to consult with visitors to discover what the local community wants from Spa Wood.

#### Spa Wood clean-up

Helped by volunteers, we've also held several river and woodland clean-up events, including CSR (corporate social responsibility) days with local companies, and liaised with Kirklees Council to clear the fly tipping.







#### Flagship sites

#### Creating best practice in caring for riverside environments

A long-term aim of our charity is to encourage riparian landowners to take ownership of their section of the river. We want to educate them about the benefits healthy rivers bring and how with their help, care and attention, we can create a river system that benefits people and wildlife.

To achieve this we've identified several 'Flagship' sites. Working together with the landowners, we're removing invasive species and replanting native flowers, managing trees and clearing litter.

Working to recommendations from the Wild Trout Trust report (commissioned in 2017), we've created examples of best practice for creating environments that encourage native wildlife to thrive.

Our holistic work has involved treating invasive species, replanting native flowers to provide food and shelter for animals, managing woodland to provide the optimum balance of shade and light and generally improving the area for visitors.

Through our Flagship sites project, we've made transformational changes to riverside areas, which can be replicated elsewhere within the catchment.

#### **Thongsbridge Tennis Club**

At Thongsbridge we've cleared litter, removed invasive species and improved riverside access.

#### **Meltham Pleasure Grounds**

Working with Friends of Meltham Pleasure Grounds, we've removed invasive species including rhododendron and skunk cabbage, and tidied the area.

# Holme Valley Camping and Caravan Park

Here we've improved access, planted trees and carried out willow spiling to protect the riverbank. We've also tackled invasive species as well as litter picking, and other improvements.



#### **Educating and Informing**

#### Spreading the word:

Informing and educating local people about the benefits of caring for the River Holme is at the heart of everything we do and vital if we are to generate sustainable long-term gains. It's particularly important to involve and engage children and young people, as they will be the future custodians of the River Holme.

#### **Educating**

In 2018 we engaged hundreds of adults and young people in activities, including litter picking, wildlife events and awareness of invasive species. We also ran and supported several community events, including:

- Holmfirth Art Festival
- Litter Ducks
- Holmfirth Duck Race
- Greenhead United Youth Fest
- Hands at Sands
- Throughout the year, we worked with schools, youth and community groups, hosting several work parties and events:
- 6 x walk and talks attended by more than 60 individuals.
- School planting, and river clean-ups.
- Balsam bashing sessions with Holmfirth Scouts.

- Young Explorers, Spa Wood
- Half-term bushcraft at Thongsbridge
- Light up Meltham Pleasure Grounds

- Welding session with Newsome High School students and artist, Mick Kirkby-Geddes.
- Design a bench competition with Mick Kirkby-Geddes.



#### **Informing**

In 2018, we increased our reach via social media, and local and regional press.



#### **Facebook**

- No. of followers increased from 267 to 367
- Average weekly reach regularly topping 1,000
- Post likes hitting 1,000
- Most effective single post featured giant hogweed, reaching 8,738 and had 2,569 engagements in June 2018.



#### **Twitter**

- Followers increased from 223 to 307
- Monthly impressions increased from 2,819 to 12,300



#### Instagram

- Account established.
- 52 followers gained from standing start,
- Potential to grow audience.



#### **News Stream Newsletter**

- Monthly newsletter sent to 362 subscribers.
- Open rate increased from 33.2% to 39.7%.



#### **Press**

- 3 articles in Huddersfield Examiner.
- 8 articles in Holme Valley Review.
- 1 x 3-page feature in Yorkshire Life magazine.
- Total of 492 column inches.
- Advertising equivalent value of £24,687.00

Editorial coverage worth £24,687



## Planned projects 2019

2019 will see the completion of several capital and community funded projects, plus the continuation of others.

#### Our Holme - Spa Wood

A major project focusing on Spa Wood, Lockwood and funded by Cummins Foundation. The work aims to engage with local people, community groups and schools, educate young people about how to care for the river and wildlife and create a sense of ownership by installing community artwork. The work will create a welcoming environment based on the needs of local people and culminate in a community festival. Part of the funding will go towards a student GIS mapping project.

#### **Bottoms Mill**

Path improvements, including resurfacing 660m of footpath with locally-sourced crushed stone. Information boards will be installed together with a decorative gate.

#### Completion of the Duck Feeding Area Phase 2

Installation of two sculptural benches, and LED lighting to the lower level feeding area. Provision of wayfinding signposts, and interpretation boards, plus repairs to dry stone walling.

#### Sands Recreation Area Phase 2

Finishing touches are planned for early 2019. Two benches from the Duck Feeding Area will be refurbished and installed at intervals along the path. Space will be left at the side of the benches for wheelchair access. A community noticeboard will also be installed and a complete refurbishment of the white bridge will take place.

#### Flagship sites

The plan is to continue working with existing and new partner organisations to create areas along the river that demonstrate best practice. The areas will illustrate how good river stewardship, can benefit people, business and wildlife.

#### **INNS Out (invasive non-native species)**

An ongoing project to rid the River Holme of Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and other invasive plant species. Treated areas will be replanted with native species.

#### **Financial information**

Please note: a full set of accounts is available to view at the River Holme Connections office. Please call 01484 661756 to arrange an appointment.

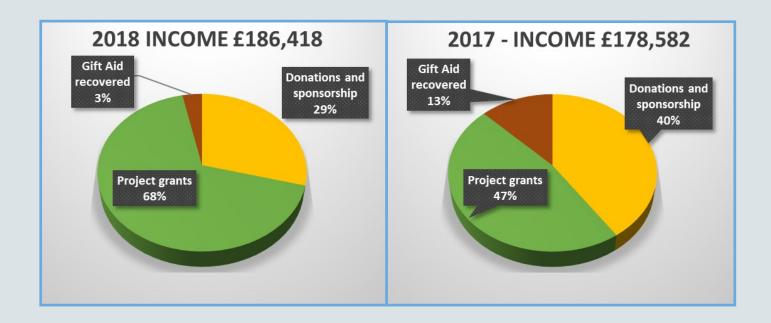
#### Income

In 2018, we received a total income of £186,418, 4.39% increase on the funds raised in 2017.

#### This comprised:

Income	2018	2017
Project grants	£126,011.00	£84,181.00
Gift Aid recovered	£6,145.00	£22,236.00
Donations and sponsorship	£54,262.00	£72,165.00
Total:	£186,418.00	£178,582.00

Although contributions from Gift Aid recovered fell by more than two-thirds, we secured funding for a major community project in Spa Wood. We were also successful in applying for a number of smaller projects, including the second phase of the duck feeding and the Sands recreation areas in Holmfirth.



#### **Expenditure**

Expenditure for 2018 was comparable with 2017, with just £5,036 of additional spend.

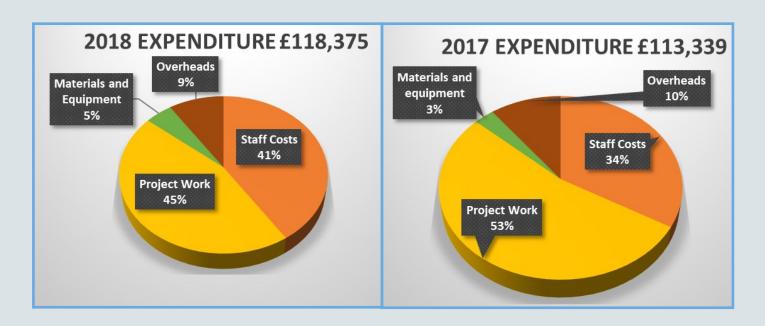
This comprised:

Expenditure	2018	2017
Project work	£53,627.00	£60,456.00
Staff costs	£48,162.00	£37,848.00
Materials and equipment	£5,524.00	£3,308.00
Overheads	£11,062.00	£11,727.00
Total:	£118,375.00	£113,339.00

Staff costs increased, due to the recruitment of a full-time river steward in July 2018. The additional work that this facilitated, resulted in additional spend on consumables and equipment for Japanese knotweed treatment. Additional materials were also required for the Spa Wood project.

#### Funds reserved for future projects

The £65,000 surplus in 2017 was allocated to projects taking place in 2018. Similarly, of the £68,000 difference between expenditure and income in 2018, around £61,000 is pre-allocated to specific budgets and projects taking place in 2019. Approximately £7,000 will be available over the coming year to fund development work and take advantage of any opportunities that arise.



#### Meet the Trustees and Staff

The Board of Trustees is responsible for leading and running the Charity in a business-focussed and socially responsible way. The Trustees, between them, have a wide range of skills and experience, are passionate about improving the River Holme and live in the catchment.

#### **Trustees**





Clare Ash



Richard Ashley



Mike Bowman



William O'Brien



Lynva Russell



Mike Williams

#### RHC Staff Team

2018 saw changes to the River Holme Connections team. Jane Skilling continued as part-time project support officer, with Project Officer, Kim Warren. Part-time Volunteer Engagement Officer, Lyze Dudley, left in March. Communications Lead, Jeanette Dyson, joined the team in February and Simon Hirst joined in July as a full -time River Steward. Kim left her post at the end of the year.



Skilling





Lyze Dudley



Dyson



## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to all the companies and organisations who have given up their time and/or provided funding to help us over the past year.

We'd also like to say a special thank you to all our amazing volunteers. It's thanks to their time and continued support in a variety of activities from office work to photography and hands on practical work, clearing rubbish, growing plants and treating invasive species, that has helped us to achieve and complete our projects.

It's the dedication, hard work and effort of everyone involved that is helping us, together, to make the River Holme a better place for people, business and wildlife.

# Thank you!

#### Our valued donors:

Many of our capital projects were funded by Cobbett Environmental Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Many other companies, individuals and community organisations have also contributed to our charity through the invasive species programme. We've also received funding, help and support in kind from:

- Cummins Turbo Technologies
- Co-op Communities Fund
- Kirklees Council
- Kirklees Rural District Committee
- Holmfirth Parish Council

- Yorkshire Water
- The Old Bridge Hotel
- One Community
- Holmfirth and Meltham Lions

Special thanks goes to Mick Forster Jones and Andrew Whittaker for many of the amazing photographs used in this report.

Annual report written and designed by Jeanette Dyson, CopyWrite. © River Holme Connections, the public name for River 2015, registered charity number: 1163873.





River Holme Connections is the public name for River 2015. Registered charity number: 1163873



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