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River Trust



Dewsbury Waterlinked Project



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Groundwork





Funded by Big Lottery over the last 3 years has been using the local waterways to deliver its three main objectives:

- Encouraging community cohesion
- Improving peoples health & wellbeing
- Improving employability though use of Dewsbury's waterways

This has involved working with people to achieve change at a local level



Activities have included..



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Keeping people, nature & history connected



Participating Groups



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Keeping people, nature & history connected

- Kirklees College
- Kumon Y'all
- The Off Outs walking group
- Community Links
- Green for Go
- Thornhill Lees Women's Walking group
- Kirklees Faiths Forum
- Experience Communities
- Safe Anchor
- Calder Navigation Society
- Nature Talks & Walks
- REAL study programme



Achievements



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Keeping people, nature & history connected

To date we have engaged 3012 members of the community via our project activities

This year the project has:

- Engaged with over 700 people
- Run the first Dewsbury Try'athlon
- Promoted and run a series of open activities for local people
- Engaged a more diverse range of groups
- Supported the training of 23 local young people
- Benefitted from a strong partnership – added value from Groundwork networks



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Dewsbury Try'athlon

- Held as part of Dewsbury Canal Festival
- Attended by approx 500 people
- Variety of activities offered for people to 'try'
- Included consultation on future project development
- A fun day out for everyone!





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CLEAR Volunteer Group

- Benefit from outdoor activities that promote mental wellbeing
- Meet every other week
- Focussed improvements around seating area
- Hoping to adopt this space and continue activities on their own





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Dewsbury Education Explorers

- Volunteer recruitment day in April
- 2 local people trained up & 2 more due to be trained in October
- Launch event attended by approx 100 people on 7 September
- Looking forward to taking the water safety message to Dewsbury!





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Public Activities

- 2 Nature walks – 29 people attending overall
- 1 Bat walk – 6 attendees
- Attendance at Canal festival – 27 people across the day for pond dipping & nature walk activities
- Forthcoming events – Bat walk; and Nature walk & boat trip





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Challenges

- Keeping everyone informed
- Communication with a variety of partners
- Engagement with the whole community
- Making wider links



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Looking forward

- On target to deliver final milestones
- Exit/Sustain strategy with existing groups
- Review the potential for official towpath adoption
- Link volunteer groups directly to Trust volunteer staff
- Plan and deliver end of project celebration event
- Support the development of continuation funding



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Thank you!
Any questions?