

Healthy Rivers, Healthy Communities

Update 1 - June 2015

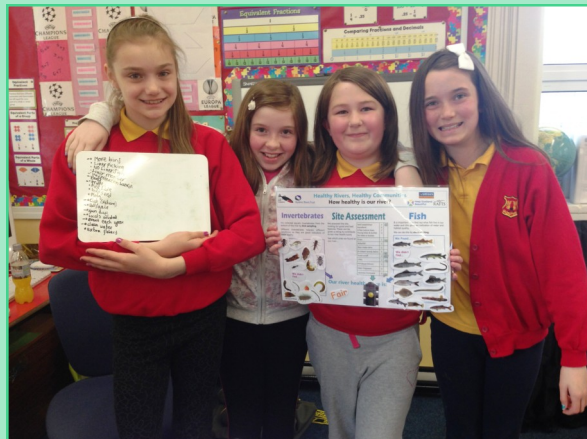


Welcome to Healthy Rivers, Healthy Communities! This river adoption project is a collaboration between the Clyde River Foundation, Ayrshire Rivers Trust, Greggs Foundation, Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful and five primary schools: Greenmill Primary in Cumnock, Ayrshire, and four from the River Clyde catchment; St Patrick's (Dumbarton), St Serf's and Golfhill Primaries (Airdrie) and Kilsyth Primary.

The project explores the connection between the health of a river and the health of the community living around it and aims to promote responsible use of rivers and greater enjoyment of the wildlife on our doorsteps. Pupils will learn how to engage with their communities and develop their social and environmental responsibilities. The project has three phases:

- Phase 1 - Meet Your River
- Phase 2 - River corridor clean-up
- Phase 3 - Community outreach

This update covers the first two stages which were completed in June 2015. Phase 3 will begin in September 2015.



Phase 1: Meet Your River

In Phase 1, pupils that participated in Clyde in the Classroom revisited their fish release sites to further explore the river environment and Greenmill Primary School from Cumnock got to study their river for the first time!

At the river, children learned how to sample invertebrates such as mayflies and caddis flies, witnessed an electrofishing demonstration by Clyde River Foundation and Ayrshire Rivers Trust scientists, learned how to identify trees from their leaves and created a site map of the environment highlighting the potential areas for

improvement. The children took their invertebrate samples back to a 'pop-up' laboratory in their classrooms to identify what they had caught. Aquatic invertebrates are good indicators of water quality and were used to calculate a health score for each river. The findings of each Meet Your River study were used to produce posters for each school to enjoy.



Phase 2: River corridor clean-up

Pupils returned to their river to analyse the environmental quality through the presence, abundance and types of litter found. Pupils worked in pairs carefully recording the different types of litter found to a standard method that could later be analysed in class. This activity was met with great enthusiasm and became very competitive! The bags were weighed and the heaviest was a massive 3kg.

Initial findings suggest that the majority of waste consisted of plastic bottles, followed closely by bagged dog poo and drinks cans.

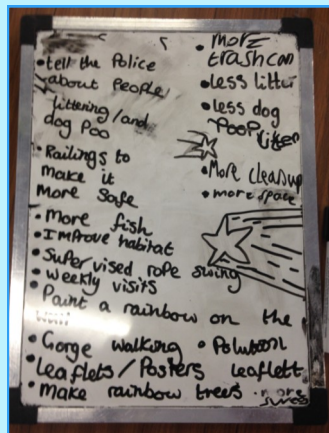
All of the data collected will be used by the pupils to take appropriate action through community engagement and education in Phase 3.

In the photos (from top to bottom) we can see pupils from Kilsyth, Golfhill, Greenmill, St Patrick's and St Serf's proudly showing their haul of litter. Well done everyone!



Phase 3: Community outreach

On their return to school after the summer break, pupils will act on their findings from Phase 1 and 2. The initial sessions sparked lots of great discussion about our rivers and what could be done to improve them. Now armed with the facts and lots of creative ideas, pupils will work towards getting the broader community actively involved in celebrating and caring for their river. Getting the community on board will be essential for the long-term success of the project!



THANK YOU!

We are very grateful to all of our participating schools and project supporters for making Healthy Rivers, Healthy Communities possible. The project is delivered by the **Clyde River Foundation** in partnership with the **Ayrshire Rivers Trust** and **Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland** and is supported by the **Greggs Foundation** and **Keep Scotland Beautiful**.



CONTACT US

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