

# CRIMP

## Clyde Riverfly Monitoring Partnership

Issue 3 – Winter 2015



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#### New citizen scientists on the Clyde



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CRIMP IS A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT THAT AIMS TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN RIVERFLY MONITORING TO VOLUNTEERS ACROSS THE EIGHT COUNTIES OF THE RIVER CLYDE CATCHMENT

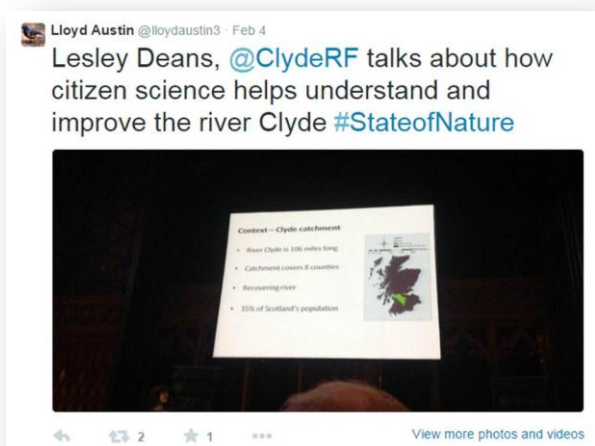
## Who cares about the Clyde?

Who cares about the Clyde? That's the question the Clyde River Foundation is asking. With a multitude of citizen science programmes popping up nationwide and numerous environmental, conservation and community groups with varying agendas and budgets all wanting to 'do their bit' for nature, what can *you* actually do to look after your local river or burn? We're calling it '**Caring for the Clyde**' and under that umbrella is 'citizen science'. Last year the Clyde Riverfly Monitoring Partnership (CRIMP) was featured in a 'Choosing and Using Citizen Science' guide, published by SEPA and CEH. This guide defines citizen science as 'the involvement of volunteers

(i.e. people who are not involved as part of their employment) in science, so it has the dual benefits of making a contribution to 'real' science, while also engaging many people with science.' The Clyde River Foundation seeks to gauge interest amongst new community groups and anglers with a love for rivers and their fly life. We aim to run a one-day training workshop that will introduce volunteers to riverfly monitoring and the monthly sampling technique volunteers can do to help monitor changes in water quality and potential pollution events. If you're interested in looking after your local river in this way then please contact us to register your interest.

# Talking about citizen science - Conference for Nature

In February, the Clyde River Foundation attended the 2015 Conference for Nature held at The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh. The aim of the conference was "to look at how innovative projects can help address the State of Nature in Scotland, linking organisations, businesses and individuals who are forming groundbreaking partnerships". This was an excellent opportunity to share the contribution that citizen scientists involved in CRIMP have made to Caring for the Clyde. It was great to talk about what has been happening across the River Clyde catchment on a local level, in particular how riverfly monitoring can detect severe changes in water quality and thus help to safeguard the fauna of rivers and burns for future generations.



## Sampling with Mid-Clyde anglers

Alistair and Robert from the club, who are both new to CRIMP this year, found most of the groups in their kick sample but also turned up a few additional taxa not recorded in the CRIMP programme – pea mussels, limpets, hoglouse and a few leeches. It looks to us like a decent baseline for the River Clyde. Alistair and Robert will be checking the water quality on the waters where they fish in the hope that 'fish-food' is in plentiful supply and, with their eyes on the river, hopefully it should stay that way. Great work guys!



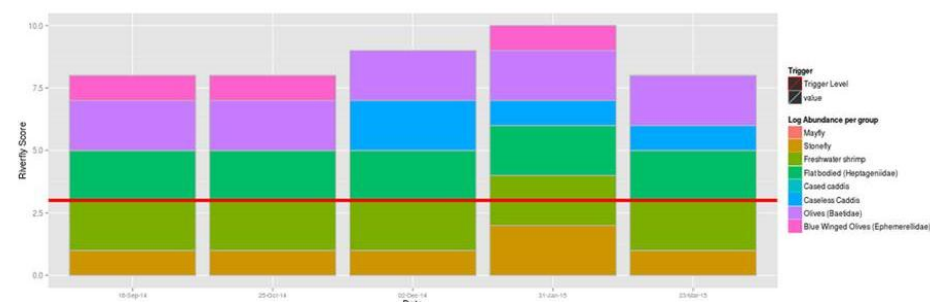
## Riverfly enthusiast Josh is Trout 'N' About

One of our younger citizen scientists Josh Maitland, East Kilbride Angling Club, has been out in all weathers surveying the Rotten Calder. Josh has been out regularly since he attended a training course at the end of August and the river appears to be looking healthy and fly life pretty steady so far. Check out his data below. Josh has also been posting his activity on his Facebook page Trout'N>About:

[www.facebook.com/TroutNAboutFlyfishingSalmonidae](http://www.facebook.com/TroutNAboutFlyfishingSalmonidae).

We love your work Josh – well done!

Calder Water Calderglen Park



Site Summary

|   | Number of Samples | Site Average Score | Max Riverfly Score | Min Riverfly Score | Date of Last Sample | Rank of Site by Average Riverfly Score |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | 5                 | 8.60               | 10.00              | 8.00               | 23/03/15            | 53th out of 78 sites                   |

Site Data

| Survey Date | Mayfly | Stonefly | Freshwater shrimp | Flat bodied (Heptageniidae) | Caseless caddis | Caseless Caddis | Olives (Baetidae) | Blue Winged Olives (Ephemeroidea) | Comments  | Combined Riverfly Score |
|-------------|--------|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 2015-03-23  | 0      | 2        | 30                | 36                          | 0               | 7               | 25                | 0                                 | River very low, summer level conditions with hatches of tiny grey flies and medium stoneflies. Water very clear but still running cold, it was a warm spring day with highs of 12 degrees bringing about hatches of small water invertebrates | 8                       |



# Third Caring for the Clyde - Citizen Science Meeting

On Saturday 7th March the Clyde River Foundation held its third 'Caring for the Clyde' citizen science meeting. The meeting was opened by Catchment Manager Dr. Willie Yeomans, after which Project Coordinator Lesley Deans gave an overview of CRIMP and presented some highlights of the project to date as well as plans for the future. John Blair (President, Bridge of Weir Angling Club) gave a terrific account of CRIMP in action on the River Gryfe – it was great to hear about how CRIMP is being used as a boost for ensuring that the river is properly managed.



After tea and cake Graham Munro, (Teacher, **Hollybrook Academy**) gave us a heart-warming version of how he has been using CRIMP for outdoor education with his classes at the Castlemilk Burn. Graham explained that the school, which is for pupils with additional support needs, greatly values outdoor learning and is actively involved in the John Muir Award scheme. He said that CRIMP was unique among many of the outdoor activities on offer in that it involves water and the "chance to splash about" and he talked of the real benefit it gives pupils, providing new skills and helping to build up resilience.

Finally, Jack Perks ([www.jackperksphotography.com](http://www.jackperksphotography.com)) shared some excellent stories of filming fish all over the UK followed by a short preview of the freshwater fish he's managed to catch on camera. It was an excellent day and we'd like to say a big thanks to our guest speakers, all of our citizen scientists and everyone who attended.



# Spot a pollution incident?

We've had a number of pollution incidents across the Clyde catchment since CRIMP launched in 2013. However without more coverage and active sampling on all the tributaries of the Clyde there is less evidence and long term records to rely on. It can take up to a year to establish a 'trigger level' for a specific site if there is no data collected previously. If you do identify a trigger level breach, repeat the CRIMP methodology. If the trigger level breach is confirmed contact the SEPA ecology contact and the Clyde River Foundation. If out of working hours contact the statutory body emergency hotline. SEPA's pollution hotline service can be contacted on the number below.

## SEPA's Pollution Hotline - 0800 80 70 60



Suspected silage liquor was discovered on the Burnbrae Burn, a tributary of the River Gryfe. This incident really evoked the Bridge of Weir Angling Club to get involved in CRIMP – the fly life was completely desecrated at the time of the pollution but luckily the burn recovered in six months.



This photo taken (UCAPA member) on 25th March 2015 shows suspected silt pollution flowing from the Moose Water and entering the River Clyde at Kirkfieldbank. The River Clyde was still carrying a high proportion of suspended particles in the water which changed the colour significantly as far down as the Garrion Bridge. But what will be the ecological repercussions for this year's emerging fry and the invertebrate populations?

## Contact us

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🌐 [www.clyderiverfoundation.org/crimp/](http://www.clyderiverfoundation.org/crimp/)

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