



Action for the River Kennet

21 November 2013

Hungerford shows support for the River Kennet

The people of Hungerford demonstrated how important the River Kennet is to them by giving great support to two recent events held by Action for the River Kennet (ARK).

For the first time ARK held their **AGM** in Hungerford Corn Exchange on 7 November, which attracted over 75 people with representatives from Thames Water, North Wessex Downs AONB, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and EA. The meeting included some robust discussion around overflows from sewers and the investigation into the Chlorpyrifos pollution incident in the summer.

Scientists from Imperial College London revealed the first results of their research into the recovery of the river from pollution. So far the whole base of the food chain has been removed and fish are altering their diets to adapt to the new conditions, partly by eating more terrestrial invertebrates, more smaller fish and small crayfish. At the moment there is no sign of the large fish suffering, but the smaller fish like bullheads have very reduced numbers and this may impact big fish over time as there are fewer small fish for the big fish to eat. The Imperial College team will continue this research to see how recovery progresses.

More Hungerford residents signed up for a free Care for the Kennet water saving makeover, and volunteers came forward to help with ARK's work in local schools.

The successful AGM followed ARK's Hungerford **street collection** in October, which raised £230.

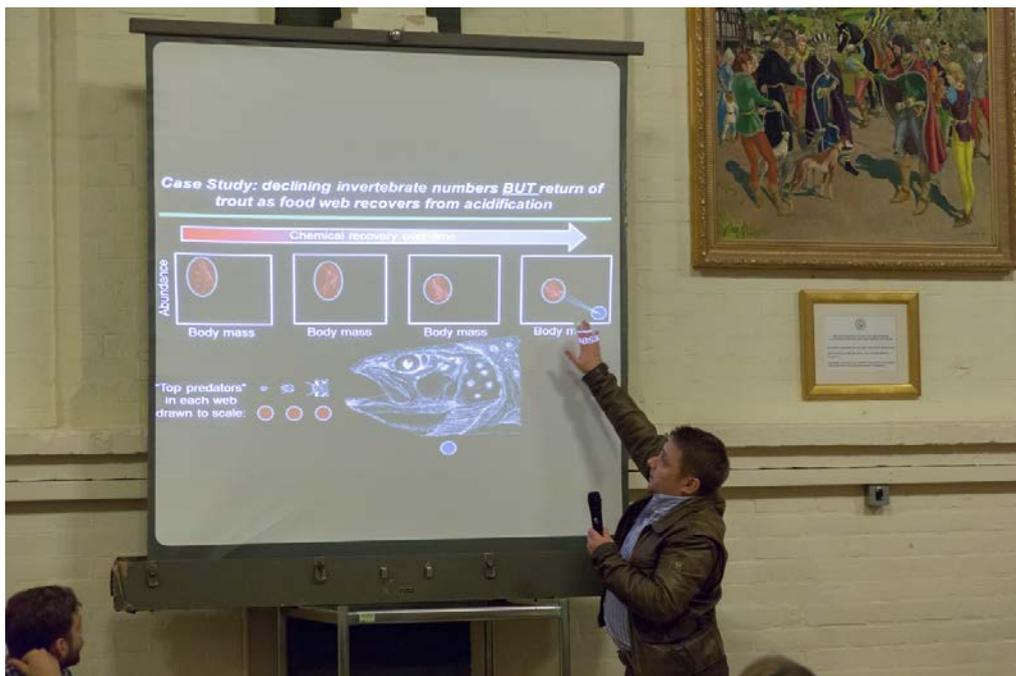
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ARK AGM in Hungerford Corn Exchange



Guy Woodward explains the latest findings of the UCL research project