

PROGRESS REPORT 2021

Projects | Governance | Finances

Governance

The board previously approved our Charitable Incorporated Organisation application, we weren't able to submit it immediately and are now doing so..

Media

We have been in the local press and community newsletters.

How did we do?

We;

- Collected over 1000 items
- 3 island litter picks
- Surveyed 16 microplastic sites
- Created art toured six libraries in Medway
- Met 333 people on the estuary

We achieved this with;

- 52 volunteer hours
- £4200 of direct funding or grant donations



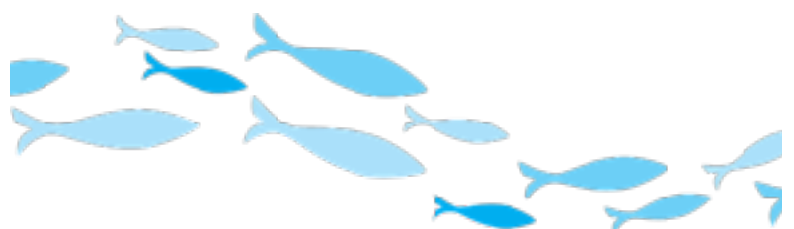
This year's progress

A second year working through a pandemic has meant we have learnt to have various alternative plans to successfully deliver a number of our projects and activities. We are working on line more but our site activities have slowly returned as the rules of gatherings were released.

Slice of Medway #Litterarma

Just like 2020 with the Wildlife Guide, we have found ways to expand our story to a wider audience. This year we expanded into art installations!

The Slice of Medway #Litterarma was created from a call by Medway Council for micro commissions to share the



Supporters

We are grateful for all support from Sea-Changers, Medway Council, ROFF, Jetstream Tours, Chatham Maritime Trust, and Chatham MDL Marina Ltd.

As well as for the Binoculars from RSPB head office for 2022.

In 2021 Chatham Historic Dockyard and Wards Security Limited joined local businesses as Supporters of Litter Free Maritime.

Our Plan for 2022

We will continue to work to deliver the 5 year plan hope that the UK will continue to return to normality, so all our sampling programmes will resume or start in 2022. Training will begin in Spring.

Our art is finishing its tour around the libraries to go to Chatham Historic Dockyard for February and March to create a flotilla of litter boats. The children's art will be published in autumn.

We also will be able to return to running workshops to make alternatives to plastic items in the house.

Estuary clean ups will return along with those in Litter Free Maritime landside areas.

For all our events, training and talks see our online calendar.

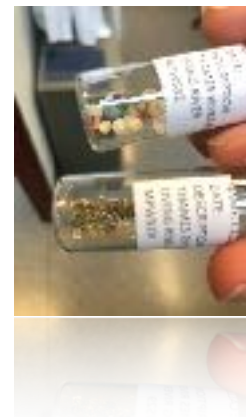
heritage of the Intra high street in-between Rochester and Chatham. We created slices of litter (from 2020's Island litter clean ups) set in resin. These were initially installed in the high street, then in Chatham and Rochester libraries and are now touring the rest of Medway Council Libraries.

The team ran events alongside the installation for children to write poems, draw messages about the litter they have seen and the impact it has.



Thames Manta

We managed to return to the Thames after two years away. Unfortunately we weren't able to pass under the Hammersmith Bridge due to the restrictions at the time. But we did achieve the rest of the samples. These, along with the two sets from the Medway are with Brunel University for analysis.



Litter Free Maritime

For another year we were able to do community events, but thanks to a student from University of Greenwich, we were able to complete research on the daily photographs to help MDL plan maintenance. Another local Student, Tommy age 9, gave up some of his summer to design a poster to explain what the litter boom is for to passers-by.

Marina clean ups have now become a firm fixture of our calendar with the MDL team, possible despite the restrictions from the boats and maintaining social distance. We have certainly seen an increase in items and we are collecting a menagerie of toys alongside balls of all sizes,

Get involved

If you would like to hear from the Foundation sign up to our mailing list.

If you'd like a talk, or join a workshop for you or a group, please get in touch info@living-river.org

If you want to get involved or know someone who might, please contact us: volunteering@living-river.org

All events are listed on our calendar on our website. Click [here](#). Most of our events are now booking via Eventbrite or via partner organisations.

including a squeaky chicken and Peter Rabbit!

Litter Critter Island Clean Ups

Island Clean ups continued this year, with more groups attending. We even brought the litter pack to Chatham Reach festival for the visitors to see what was out there! This year we had support from Peel Ports to dispose of the non recyclable items. We have been collecting hard plastic and rope as part of a national pilot project.



Fish of Medway

As planned the new project Fish of the Medway has started. This is in partnership with ROFF (Rochester Oyster and Floating Fishery), Environment Agency, Institute of Fisheries Management, and Hadlow College. These organisations will have oversight of the project to make sure that it doesn't create damage to the estuary.

Research has been completed by another University of Greenwich Student to identify sites in the Not Take Zone and across the estuary to effectively monitor the protection's impact.

Monitoring will start in earnest in 2022, but thanks to funding from Sea-Changers and ROFF we have the equipment required and are starting training for volunteers. If you'd like to join us or to find out more email fish@living-river.org