



@neneriverstrust



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

It is the start of another busy year for Nene Rivers Trust. As we enter our first year as a Rivers Trust, we have a lot of new projects on the horizon. Our expanding team are working together to bring our dreams to fruition.

We thought it would be a good idea to share with you all the exciting things we have been working on each month and give you an insight into what goes on behind the scenes here at NRT.

ISE PARTNERSHIP

Viktor has now taken over the Ise Partnership project at NRT. At the end of last year the Slade Brook Realignment scheme (photographed above) was progressing well. This was a project at Wicksteed Park to create a new course for the Slade Brook as well as incorporating a hectare of lowered flood plain and increasing public access to nature along the River Ise. We have uploaded a video to our [Youtube](#) where you can learn more about the work done here and watch a fascinating video of the machinery in action. This scheme is now on hold until the Spring due to bad weather resulting in difficult working conditions.

In addition we are currently exploring opportunities in the River Ise catchment based around access, natural flood management and river restoration.

RESILIENT RIVER

Work is progressing at the Electric Cut, a historic backwater in Peterborough. The backwater is being de-silted and this work is almost complete.

Viktor has also been helping Billing Parish Council on a new project to protect against erosion on the Billing Brook.



A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Winter is a time for turning inwards, for reflection and for quiet preparations for the more productive seasons ahead. In the spirit of winter our CEO has been quietly preparing for the coming year. This will be our first full year as a Rivers Trust, a charity, so there are business plans to be prepared. As we put relationships at the centre of all we do, this involves a lot of conversations and explorations both internally and with our partners. It also involves a good deal of creativity as we imagine what we might become and what we might do to be in service to our communities and to the nature of the Nene.

On the theme of planning and preparing this is also the time of year when we begin preparations for end of financial year reporting and begin financial planning for the coming year so Kat has been very occupied with various spreadsheets.

Finally, and as dull as it sounds, there are reviews and updates of all our policy documents to reflect the new identity of the Nene Rivers Trust and how we want to be in the world.

Kat is very much enjoying the slowly lengthening days and the gently rising temperatures that signal it will soon be time for her to join us in the catchment for the first of her visits this year.



ROCKINGHAM FOREST VISION

The biggest news for RFV project is that we have gained a new member of the team. Meet Sophie, our new Project Officer for the Building the Links for the Rockingham Forest (pictured left).

Corinne is now working part-time and focusing solely on this project, having handed over the River Ise Partnership Project to Viktor.

Corinne and Sophie are currently working with their evaluators and attending many training courses to maintain the [Rockingham Forest website](#), where you can read more in depth about their latest ventures.

As this project gathers momentum, watch out for news on Parish Nature Recovery Plans, the Community Grant Scheme available, Forest School and Teaching Trees in Corby schools, River Warden opportunities and much more.

LENS 23

The year was off to a busy start for all things farming. Tris and Rickleigh attended the Oxford Real Farming Conference in their first week back and have since been working together to prepare the farming database for the coming year.

Tris has been working on LENS 23 bids, engaging farmers and assisting them in submitting applications for LENS 23 ahead of the deadline.



OUT OF HOURS

We try to meet as a team outside of work every month or two for a chance to come together and catch up as friends. This month we met in gorgeous Stamford and had dinner at The Tobie Norris. This gave us a chance to welcome Sophie to the team and celebrate Molly's birthday.

Tris is thrill seeking in France, trying not to fall off any mountains on his snowboard (pictured above).

Corinne is making the most of her extra hours writing her first novel and enjoyed a day out at the spa.

Mandy has been enjoying time with the family and enjoyed watching the England v Scotland rugby game.

Molly has been visiting various friends across the country to celebrate her birthday and has started jogging with her dog.

Rickileigh has been furniture building, making music and enjoying walking in local parks.

Viktor has been busy spending time with his sons and bracing the cold for some night fishing.



SPA



Molly began the year diving back into public engagement events by running guided dog walks at Stanwick Lakes and Northampton Washlands. These walks form part of our work encouraging responsible dog ownership to reduce bird disturbance within Special Protection Areas.

She also enjoyed a visit to Titchmarsh Primary school where she ran our SPA Champion workshop with years 5 & 6, getting pupils excited about the nature on their doorstep and how they can be ambassadors for it.

Molly and Mandy are developing interpretation boards and wayfinding throughout the Nene Valley to improve accessibility along the river.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Our techspert, Rickileigh has been busy populating our social media platforms, and working with Lisa to edit the [website](#) and make sure we are keeping you up to date with all things NRT. Rickileigh and Molly have been busy creating content for [socials](#) and just generally planning activities and upcoming events for the team.

Lesley, our business manager, has been busy keeping the company in order with all things, admin, banking and training.

Mandy has officially begun her role as Funding and Relationships Manager and is active being the font of all knowledge in the office, assisting everyone with elements of their work and meeting partners. All of this, alongside completing final reports from our beloved Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme that came to an end in December.