

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSERVATION OF FAL AND HELFORD RIVERS INCREASED THANKS TO FUNDING FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

MONEY is being pumped into a project which aims to bring more joy to leisure activities in the fun-filled waterways between Falmouth and Truro.

Just over £6,000 has been given to Fal River Links from the Environment Agency to help promote activities in and around the River Fal, increase knowledge of best environmental practise for boat waste and develop new routes along the waterways.

Martin Rule, recreation and biodiversity officer for the Environment Agency, said the need for a dedicated estuary officer for the area is vital in maintaining contact between landowners, local authorities and estuary users.

“The Fal River Links project is all about improving access to the water, organising events in and around the water, liaising with all the various boat owners and attraction managers, improving access to the water and developing research projects which contribute to the conservation of the areas. And these are all very much in line with our remit at the Environment Agency,” Martin said.

He explained that in the past, the Fal had a dedicated estuary officer as part of English Nature’s Estuaries Initiative, aimed at bringing together estuary users and managers to deliver sustainable development and management of the estuarine resource. This post continued when the Fal and Helford were listed as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), with the officer providing a single point of contact for relevant authorities, and estuary users, as well as working on projects such as developing the Management Plan, producing interpretive materials and publicising the wildlife importance of the area.

The Cycleau project has been able to provide a part-time facilitator for the Fal and Helford catchment. This post will continue until later this year, and has enabled more successful development of the SAC Advisory Group, better links between estuary users and managers, and increased awareness of the importance of the estuary.

“We hope that by funding the work of the Fal River Links estuary officer, the progress which has already been made thanks to the Cycleau project will be maintained and progressed. At a time when the United Kingdom is looking to reduce impacts from climate change and deal with rising sea levels, efforts to reduce car journeys by making more use of the water access will be a key issue for Jemima,” Martin concluded.

Jemima Ball, who recently took up the post of Fal River Links estuary officer, said she is looking forward to promoting days out on the water.

She said: “I have lots to achieve over the next 12 months but my longer term ambitions are to generate more prosperity for FRL’s operators, create new partnerships and opportunities for other associated businesses and improve environmental awareness for this unique part of Cornwall.”

ENDS

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