

Waveney Riverfly Matters May 2026

Kick starting the kick sampling

And so, on a glorious spring morning in mid-April, us keen Riverfly monitors got together at the Riverside Centre in Bungay for our spring get-together. Despite some faltering attempts to join the group via the centre's office (Willum) and even via the lift shaft (Zoe), we gathered in the main space with plentiful cake and ginger bread men and views through the riverside trees.

Two clear and prodigious water samples were produced by David Sheahan and were quickly followed by mesh strips, mezze trays, and the other paraphernalia of our good work. With so many Riverfly brains in one room, we were able to compare our thoughts on the species we encountered most



Starston Beck benthic macroinvertebrates

and least, ones we were unsure about identifying, and we got some good views of some of the usual suspects. Although the star of the show was an off-script, chunky dragonfly nymph who helped lure in some of the passing youngsters; paired perfectly with Katie's detailed explanation of its jet-propelled jaw lunges when catching prey. What kid could resist such tales surely? (We couldn't - and here we still are; an unspecified number of decades later!)



With some trepidation, we settled down to the serious stuff in the form of 'Katie's Quiz'. No looking over shoulders was in evidence as we scribbled our answers to the questions that we must consider before all our monitoring sessions. Risk assessments, what to do in dangerous situations and the perils of getting too close to certain animals (Sample Answer: rats can spread Leptospirosis and not sunburn) were discussed, debated and our answers were arrived at sensibly from shared experience and consensus. Phew! And there was even a fleeting visit from offstage by ambient music legend, Roger Eno (and his dog, Ted). Sadly, he did not stay long enough to identify any blue-winged olives....

By River Waveney Riverfly kick sampler **Willum Gibson** from Starston Beck dynamic duo Willum and Zoe.



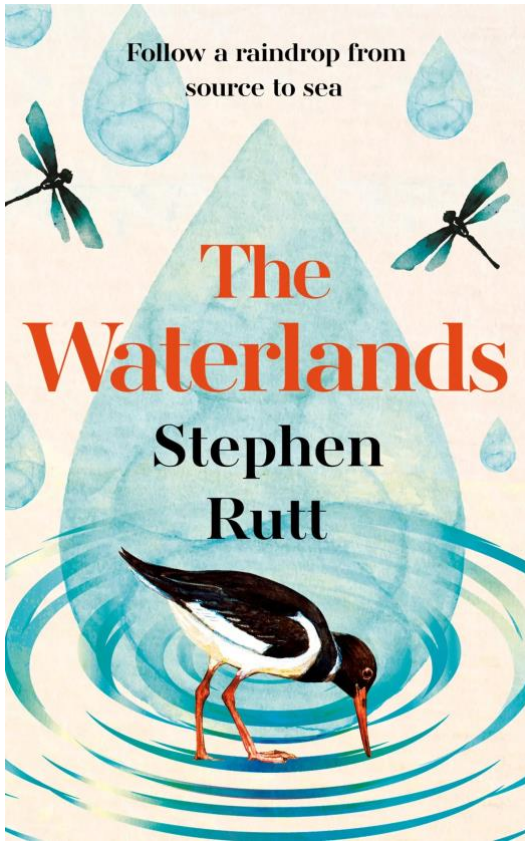
Thank you **Alison Shireff**,
 from all of us upstairs at the
 Mayfly Morning!

With your vip and vigour, you
 piqued the interest of passers by
 who came in to ask questions and
 pour over the trays of
 aquatic invertebrates.



Thank you **Katie**,
 especially for our quiz,
 and thanks to all those
 who could make it...we'll
 try to fix a date that fits in
 for everyone sometime in
 July.

What I have been reading...



Stephen Rutt has written several books, mostly about birds, and has made a name for himself as a sensitive nature writer. In his new book, *The Waterlands*, he uses all his powers of observation and his naturalist's knowledge to express how water shapes our landscape. He follows the River Clyde, from its source to the sea, looking at the changes that agricultural and industrial development have wrought on it. He also goes on to look into less mobile water bodies, lochs and lakes with the impacts of acid rain on the phytoplankton and fish. Then to the chalk streams of southern England and the harms that are being inflicted on them by industries, including his despair at the concrete channel for the River Lark through the Tesco car park in Bury St Edmunds, though that is a place where I have seen the huge gatherings of pied wagtails, so there must be something to attract them.

His account of the Flow Country in north east Scotland and its renovation and return from tax-break forestry to blanket bog is fascinating. Much nearer to home, he visits the Fens, an area where he first learnt to love the outdoors and nature as a young boy. Finally he goes to the huge, extensive mudflats of Wigtown Bay and the hidden life under the mud, the birdlife, and the impact that humans have had on the area over the centuries.

He writes from within the landscape, not observing from outside it, and sometimes he is obviously getting very wet and muddy indeed. Even though he addresses some difficult topics, his writing is always engaging and entertaining and is an urgent call to protect our most valuable resource.

Jill Halliday

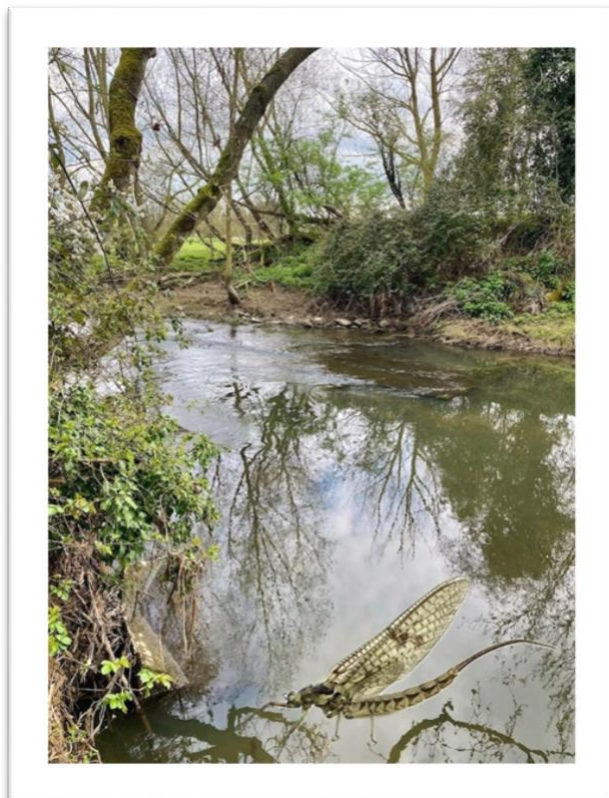
The Waterlands: Stephen Rutt, pub. Elliott & Thompson; 2026

The Generic Risk Assessment Sheet that Katie referred to on Saturday:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6231b3cc1c6be65a4ddb0a15/t/693950de8d68ad6806f2cec2/1776083816633/04+Generic+risk+assessment.pdf>

(What a link. This **must** be interesting! I'd better have a look...)

Site Snapshots!



Shotford Bridge monitoring site with a rogue mayfly taking centre stage!

Love your site? Send an email with a favourite photo of your monitoring site and I'll add a mayfly and send it back!

I happened upon this Ephemera v. (do correct me if it's not!) We were treated to the dancing cloud of many more, at Homersfield pocket park on bank holiday Monday.

I wonder if there's interest out there for a set of notecards of riverflies on the River Waveney? Perhaps it could be used to raise funds. I'm keen to hear your thoughts on this idea or anything else that comes to mind.

Cath Jobbins

Links of interest

The Riverfly Partnership Newsletter April 2026: [riverfly-partnership-newsletter-April2026](#)

River Waveney Trust: www.riverwaveneytrust.org/about/

Buglife with links to various projects 'saving the small things that run the planet.':
www.buglife.org.uk/

About invasive non-native species: <https://youtu.be/-7i9nMgt6ec?feature=shared>

Riverfly, the Canary of Our Rivers: https://youtu.be/_VZU_IEVzfY?feature=shared

Meet aquatic invertebrates: <https://youtu.be/6QpgL-tTxSg?feature=shared>

Open University free online courses:

Flood plain meadows: www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment

Hidden soil allies: www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/hidden-soil-allies--fungi-help-plants-face-drought

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David Sheahan provided the following link to excellent ID charts in a previous newsletter. *A Guide to Identifying Common Freshwater Invertebrates* is available to download:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/identifynature/guide-identifying-common-freshwater-invertebrate-groups.html>

River Waveney Riverfly Matters is an informal monthly update by riverfly monitors **for** riverfly monitors *and* anyone else who's interested. It will arrive by email each month. If this has come to you from a friend and you'd like to receive a copy in your own inbox, let me know. Feel free to send comments, ideas, photos, articles or any links of interest to Cath:
cathjobbins@btinternet.com