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Welcome to the Maigue Rivers Trust's (MRT) seventh newsletter. It has been another fruitful year despite the cancellation of the planned annual Maigue River Kayak event, due to the theft of kayaks. In 2023/4 the MRT hosted demonstrations, public presentations, launched a video about the river and the trust, and published a Transition Year Module on water. Enormous thanks go Liz Gabbett who stepped down as a MRT Project Officer last year and to Tom Harrington who has stepped down as Chairperson. Welcome also to Christine Reidy, our new MRT project officer.

*Maugue River Trust Directors*

## Fly Casting



**Dry fly-casting and fly-tying** demonstrations took place on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Croom Town Park. Mike Quinlivan, Dave Busten & Tom Harrington demonstrated their skills to a captivated audience in Croom Town Park.

Additionally, a **Youth Angling Course** took place in Coláiste

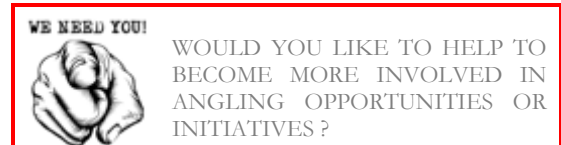
Chiaráin Croom facilitated by Mike Quinlivan and aided by trust directors. Both events were sponsored by Inland Fisheries Ireland.



*Learning about Fly-tying*



*Dry fly-casting*



A **Meet the River Insects** demonstration was also facilitated by Liz Gabbett and Rhiannon Laubauch.



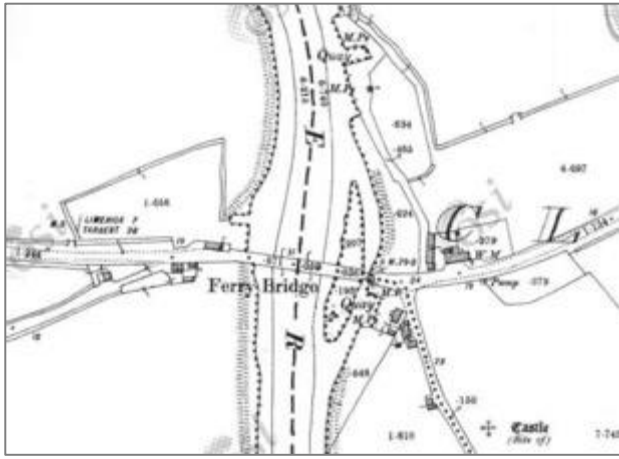
*Tom Harrington collecting a river sample from the Camoge*



*Camoge River Mayfly*

## Adare Flood Relief Scheme & Ferrybridge Pontoon

Ryan Hanley Civil and Structural Engineering Consultants presented their [preferred options](#) for the flood relief scheme at a public information meeting in Adare on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2024. They noted that all the works to be carried out are restricted to the river bank walk and adjacent lands and roads and will not impact on the river itself, either during the construction phase or afterwards.



Ferrybridge (OSI 25" ~1900)

Ryan Hanley also indicated that the only impact on the Maigue river will be the subsequent installation of the Ferry bridge pontoon. This project is not part of the flood relief project, although Ryan Hanley are providing access and room for the pontoon so that it can be installed at a later date.

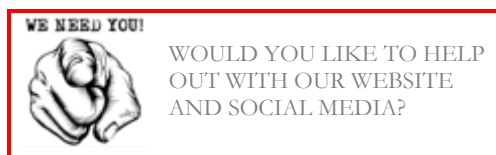
Approximately €200K has been assembled for pontoon project. Chains have been selected instead of piles which will be more expensive.

### Maigue Farmers

A MRT event on farming in the Maigue catchment titled **Opportunities and Challenges** took place on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 in Deebert Hotel, Kilmallock. Between 60 and 70 people were present to listen to four presentations. Tom Harrington spoke about the Maigue Rivers Trust, Pdraig Fitzgerald described the ASSAP Kerry Group Deel Project, Carol Quish outlined the Mulkear EIP and Sean Lavery (IFA) spoke about farming. Diverse opinions and strong emotions were evident in the discussions. MRT farming sector director Aiden Gleeson did an excellent job managing the evening.



### MRT Website



We recently had a few hiccups with our website but we are glad to report that it is now active again. We hope to plan some upgrades to the website in the next

year and are happy to hear your suggestions on making the website more useful.



MRT Website

### Giant Hogweed

The Morningstar Giant Hogweed (GHW) project is now complete. The availability of money (thanks to Limerick City & County Council and LAWPRO'S Community Water Development Fund at an appropriate time facilitated project success in the eradication of an estimated 80% of the population. However tackling this hazardous invasive plant requires ongoing surveillance and another 3-years of maintenance work. The MRT is committed to securing funds to continue the annual control program.

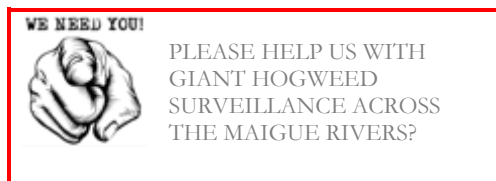


Giant Hogweed on the Morningstar



Landowner Morgan Murphy and Liz Gabbett survey for Giant Hogweed

The network of landowners and individuals established in Morningstar Project are essential to long-term success. These will provide feedback to MRT on GHW sightings over the coming years and may actively engage in control work themselves.



### Maigue Video

Grey Heron Media produced a video on the work of the Maigue Rivers Trust. Sponsorship was provided by Ballyhoura Development. The video was launched at an event in Croom Civic Centre on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2023. Short and long versions of the videos can be viewed here.



[Short version \(7 minutes\)](#)

[Long version \(15 minutes\)](#)

### West Liskennett

The West Liskennett River, known locally as the Glasha Bwee, is a small tributary that enters the main channel of the River Maigue near Banoge Co. Limerick. The MRT completed a preliminary assessment of the river and spoke to landowners and catchment scientists in Inland Fisheries Ireland about improving the salmonid habitat. The MRT are laying some groundwork for river restoration and expansion of salmonid spawning habitat by identifying landowner and community group champion and exploring funding opportunities.



### Water Matters - Transition Year Module

A Transition Year Module sponsored by The National Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) and created by former MRT Project Officer Liz Gabbett and the MRT Directors has been published. The module was piloted in Maigue catchment schools (Mungret College, Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom; Scoil Pól, Kilfinane; and St Ailbes, Tipperary Town).

The resources consist of 12 lesson plans, 3 student workbooks and 3 teacher resources which can all be found here <https://thewaterforum.ie/resources-category/education-resources/> or click on images below.

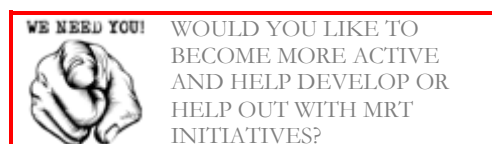


*Example Lesson Plans, Teacher Resources and workbooks*

### Funding Awards

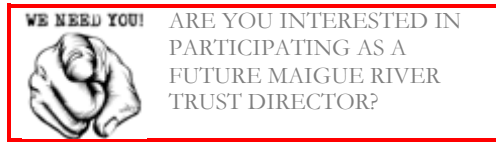


The MRT was successful in its funding applications to the Rivers Trust Development Fund and the LAWPRO Capacity Fund. These awards will provide much-needed core funding to support MRT initiatives and help fulfil the increasingly complex charity governance requirements. The funds will enable a part-time project officer appointment for one year.



## MRT Directors Update

Tom Harrington stepped down as Chair of the Mague Rivers Trust at the annual AGM. The MRT would like to thank Tom for his enormous contributions over the last seven years. Carol Quish has stepped down temporary project officer and as Finance Director.



Catherine Dalton has now been elected Chair of the Trust. Former project officer Liz Gabbett has been elected as a Director representing Wildlife and Conservation and Nadaline Webster has been elected as Education Director.

A big welcome also to Christine Reidy, the MRTs new part-time project officer, supported by funding from The Rivers Trust and LAWPRO.

## Funding Applications submitted by MRT

- Heritage Council's Heritage Organization Support Fund 2024
- Community Heritage Grant 2024
- IFI – Kayaking Event 2024
- Limerick General Municipal Allocation (GMA) application for Giant Hogweed work

- Limerick Metropolitan GMA Festivals and Events Grant Scheme application 2024

## Community Outreach & Public Talks

- Tom Harrington and Liz Gabbett attended the Cappamore Show with a MRT stand on August 19<sup>th</sup>
- Heritage Week 2023: Tom Harrington (and Mike Donegan) was involved in events associated with Kilcornan and Killmallock Biodiversity Action Plans.
- A MRT farmer focused event 'Opportunities and Challenges' took place on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.
- A Volunteers Appreciation Event took place in Bruff on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023.
- Dry fly-casting and fly-tying demonstrations and Meet the River Insects took place on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Croom Town Park.
- A Youth Angling Course took place in April 2024 in Coláiste Chiaráin Croom

## Thank you to our 2024



## 2024 Mague River Trust Directors

Research & Education: (Chair) <b>CATHERINE DALTON</b> Geography Lecturer Mary Immaculate College, Univ. Limerick		Business Sector: <b>MICHAEL DONEGAN</b>	
Wildlife: <b>LIZ GABBETT</b>		Local Development: <b>RHIANNON LAUBACH</b> Ballyhoura Development CLG	
Finance Sector: <b>MARY FITZGERALD</b> Owner Woodlands House Hotel & Spa, Adare		Outdoor Leisure & Tourism: <b>SYBREN OGGEL</b> Croom Development Association	
Community: <b>KEVIN CRIBBIN</b> Adare Community Trust		Farming: <b>NADALINE WEBSTER</b> , Hospital	
Farming: <b>AIDAN GLEESON</b> Cattle farmer and IFA nominee		Angling: <b>DAVE BUSTEN</b> Bleach Lough Anglers	
Education: <b>GERARD O'SULLIVAN</b> Principal Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom			

Reports on the Mague River and Catchment ([click on image to access pdf files](#))

