

Website  
[www.maugueriverstrust.ie](http://www.maugueriverstrust.ie)

Email  
[info@maugueriverstrust.ie](mailto:info@maugueriverstrust.ie)

Facebook  
[@maugueriverstrust](https://www.facebook.com/maugueriverstrust)

X  
[@maugueriver](https://twitter.com/maugueriver)

Welcome to the Maigue Rivers Trust's (MRT) eighth newsletter. The Maigue Catchment covers an area of over 1000 Km<sup>2</sup> stretching from near Charleville in North Cork to the Shannon Estuary taking in almost a third of county Limerick. We are delighted to welcome three new directors who would like to help protect, enhance and cherish the Maigue rivers and to see lots of young participants in the Maigue Family River sessions in April and the River Festival in May.

*Maugue River Trust Directors*

### Little Maigue Scientists

In April, the Maigue Rivers Trust hosted six fun-filled Family River Sessions for over 120 enthusiastic little Maigue Scientists! The sessions in Bruff and Adare were led by the ever-inspiring **Geoff Hunt** (Heritage in Schools) and generously supported by Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO). The mini-scientists were supervised by their parents and aided by the trust project officer and directors.

**Family River Sessions**  
Led by Geoff Hunt

- 10:30 AM - Bruff Riverside Park
- 2:30 PM - Adare Town Park (Meet by the Bandstand)
- Saturday 5th April - Pond Dipping
- Saturday 12th April - Bugs & Mini-Beasts

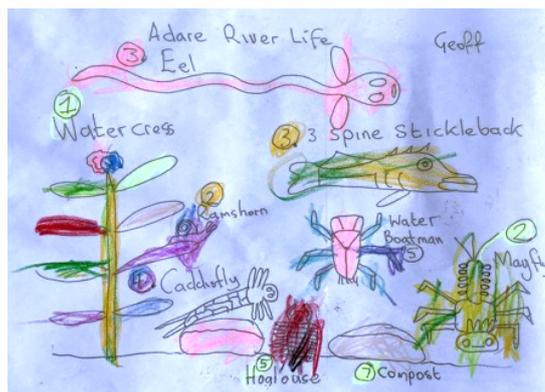
Join us for a fun and educational outdoor experience!  
Explore the wonderful wildlife of our rivers, discovering fascinating creatures in the water and on land with expert Geoff Hunt.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.  
For pond dipping, children must wear wellington boots.

To Book Your Free Spot:  
Email: [Christine@maugueriverstrust.ie](mailto:Christine@maugueriverstrust.ie)

Kindly funded by LAWPRO  
Local Authority Waters Programme

The magical sense of discovery and enjoyment of the children was a joy to behold. Geoff commented that the thrill of curiosity and joy is greatly enhanced when children are allowed to discover river-flies and mini-beasts themselves.

This enthusiasm was captured in an audio recording by Brenda O'Donoghue for the RTÉ Countrywide radio programme, which aired over the May bank holiday weekend.



*Little Maigue Scientists Artwork*



*Geoff Hunt speaking to parents and children in Bruff*



*Little Maigue Scientist and Mum looking for riverflies*



*Little Maigue Scientists in Adare Town Park*

The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive. All sessions were fully booked, with a waitlist required. To meet the high demand, additional sessions had to be added in Adare.

## RTE Countrywide and the Maigue



# RTE

The rivers of the Maigue catchment 'On the banks for the river Maigue in Limerick' featured on RTE's Countrywide May bank holiday weekend special.

The programme featured items from MRT Chair Catherine Dalton, dairy farmer Mike McNamara, Heritage in Schools educator Geoff Hunt, and Pat Murphy CEO of Kerry Dairy Ireland. Topics covered included water quality, farming practices, family river sessions as well as music of the Maigue. The programme can be found on RTE Player <https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/clips/22510067/>.

## New Trust Project Officer

Welcome to new Maigue Rivers Trust Project Officer **Christine Reidy**. Christine got off to a flying start last autumn and has been busy getting up to speed with the trust activities. Christine has been busy submitting funding applications, planning community events and supporting the trust directors. A major highlight of her first year with the



Trust was the Family River Sessions with Geoff Hunt in Bruff and Adare, which aimed to inspire a new generation of river stewards.

## MRT Core Costs

The Maigue Rivers Trust has been granted funding assistance under the 2024 **The Rivers Trust Development Fund** and the 2025 **LAWPRO Catchment Support Fund**. The awards supported catchment events and will support core costs (insurance, website and compliance with charities regulation) and the role of the part-time MRT project officer as well as some event delivery costs.



## Maigue River Festival 2025

The Maigue River Festival took place as part of the **Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2025** in **Croom** on the June Bank Holiday Weekend. Inland Fisheries Ireland, LAWPROs Community Water Officer Colum Walsh and Geoff Hunt (Heritage in Schools) ran inspiring sessions in the Trust marquee.



The marquee acted as a focal point for treasure hunts, river art and activities. Out in the park, fly casting and tying, folklore tales and children's stories. An estimated 500 children and adults passed through the park. The weather was kind thankfully.



Fishing Fly-ties



Identifying river flies

## Maigue River Farmers

Over the coming year the Maigue Rivers Trust will hold a series of meetings aimed at farmers across the catchment to highlight the benefits of the new 'Farming for Water' EIP initiative. Keep an eye out for public meetings in your area that will be of interest to our farmer guardians of the landscape and rivers.



Little Maigue Scientists Artwork

## Making the Maigue Swimmable

The MRT would like you to help us identify unofficial bathing areas (wild swimming spots) across the catchment



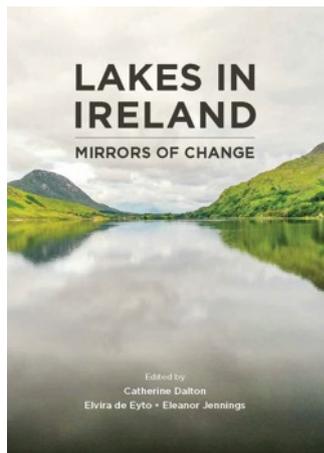
- Do you swim at a local river, lake, estuarine or coastal spot?
- What is the name of the area and geo-reference?
- How many people use the site?
- How accessible is the site?
- Are there any safety issues?

Send details to: [info@maigueriverstrust.ie](mailto:info@maigueriverstrust.ie)

## Lakes in the Maigue Catchment

Lough Gur is the iconic lake of County Limerick and the Maigue River catchment area. Gur and Bleach Loughs are the only two catchment lakes included in the national lake monitoring programme because they are the only lakes in the county greater than 0.5km<sup>2</sup> in size. This means that many smaller lakes and ponds (e.g. Dromore, Kilbreedy Loughs, Doohyle and, Loughnagira) are not assessed for water quality.

Maigue Rivers Trust Chair Catherine Dalton recently coordinated a FREE globally accessible open access book which can be accessed here [Lakes in Ireland – Mirrors of Change](#). The book includes chapters on the history, geography and science, and highlights some of the growing threats that lakes face.



## New Community Water Officer

The Maigue Rivers Trust would like to welcome **Colum Walsh** LAWPRO's new Community Water Officer for Limerick and Clare. The MRT looks forward to working with Colum in his role as a bridge between local communities and public authorities, in facilitating the development of local water management plans and engaging in public education and awareness campaigns.



## River Walks?

### ? Question:

Are there opportunities along the Maigue Rivers for scenic walks?



## Giant Hogweed

Limerick City & County Council are continuing their great work to remove Giant Hogweed on the Loobagh and Morningstar rivers with plant digouts, stem injections with glyphosphate and flower head removal.

MRT continue to liaise with the network of landowners and individuals in the Morningstar and provide feedback on sightings over the coming years. The MRT have additionally submitted a LEADER funding application to build on the physical works funded by the council, by developing educational materials, workshops and training to increase community awareness and river stewardship.



The MRT highlighted a number of potential river walks that could be explored across the catchment in the 2021 [Recreation & Amenity Potential Report](#). These opportunities are only possible with landowner permission and small physical interventions (e.g. gates, kissing gates and stiles) and adequate parking points.

MRT is working with Ballyhoura Development and West Limerick Resources to explore the potential and identify actions for a walking trails along the lower Maigue river.

## MRT Trust Directors

Three of our valued Maigue River Trust Directors are approaching the end of their terms, having served with dedication and commitment for the past eight years. We extend our sincere thanks for their invaluable contributions to the Trust and the wider community.

As their terms end, we are seeking **New Directors** to join our Board. All community organisations thrive on fresh perspectives and new energy. This is a great opportunity to bring your ideas, experience, and passion to a well-established team working to support our rivers.

We are delighted to welcome three new Trust Directors in 2025. **Donna Weiner** completed her postgraduate research on the Maigue catchment. **Conor Kirby** is an avid fisherman and did his final degree project on farming in the Maigue catchment. **Ciara Danagher**, is a science teacher in Coláiste Chiaráin Croom with a keen interest in biodiversity and ecology. We look forward to working with them.

### Funding Applications submitted by MRT 2024/2025

- Limerick City & Co. Council Festivals and Event Fund
- Limerick City & Co. Council GMA funding
- LAWPRO Community Animator Fund
- Heritage Council's Heritage Organisation Support Fund
- The Rivers Trust - Trust Development Fund
- LAWPRO 2025 Catchment Support Fund
- LAWPRO Small Event Fund
- LEADER grant application - via West Limerick Resources
- Future Lakes EU Project Call for Associated Regions

### Community Outreach & Public Talks

- The Maigue and the Trust Chair featured on RTE's Countrywide radio programme on 3rd May 2025

- MRT Chair and Project Officer gave a presentation to the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock Councillors on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2025
- Family River Sessions April 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Bruff & Adare
- Maigue River Festival May 31<sup>st</sup> Croom

### Future Events 2025-2026

- Heritage Week events throughout the catchment in August
- Development Associations/Organisations Social and Environmental History focused event Woodland Hotel Adare October.
- Farmer-centred sessions – Drumcomoge-Camoge River catchment areas.

### Thank you to our 2024 / 2025 Sponsors



### 2024 Maigue River Trust Directors

Research: (Chair) <b>CATHERINE DALTON</b> Lecturer Mary Immaculate College		Business Sector: <b>MICHAEL DONEGAN</b>	
Wildlife: <b>LIZ GABBETT</b> , University of Limerick		Local Development: <b>RHIANNON LAUBACH</b> Ballyhoura Development CLG	
Finance Sector: <b>MARY FITZGERALD</b> Woodlands House Hotel & Spa, Adare		Outdoor Leisure & Tourism: <b>SYBREN OGGEL</b> Croom Development Association	
Community: <b>KEVIN CRIBBIN</b> Adare Community Trust		Agriculture: <b>NADALINE WEBSTER</b> , Hospital	
Farming: <b>AIDAN GLEESON</b> Cattle farmer and IFA nominee		Angling: <b>DAVE BUSTEN</b> Bleach Lough Anglers	
Citizen Science: <b>DONNA WEINER</b>		Angling: <b>CONOR KIRBY</b>	
Education: <b>CIARA DANAGHER</b>			

### Reports on the Maigue River and Catchment (*click on image to access pdf files*)

