



Ver
Valley
Society



PROTECT THE VER

#riverver

TIME FOR ACTION

www.riverver.co.uk

 @VerValleySoc  Ver Valley Society  vervalleysoc

THANK YOU!



Thank you for coming to our Protest in the Park. We are as maddened and frustrated as you are that our precious chalk stream, the River Ver should have been allowed to dry up without so much as a hosepipe ban.

It's World Rivers Day and we no longer have one. We hope that with everyone turning up today it will send a message, to those who look after our environment and its water, that we are extremely unhappy with the way that our River Ver, an iconic feature of St Albans and the surrounding countryside, is being treated.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY?

Meet at 11.30 and by 12 noon we are hoping to form a blue human chain from Ye Olde Fighting Cocks towards the stepping stones and maybe beyond!

We've allocated a few photographers to make sure we capture the show of support and the spirit of the day.

If you are on social media please make the most of the occasion and use **#riverver** to share the event.

There won't be any long speeches but we've highlighted 10 things you can do to help the Ver in this leaflet. And we'll be around afterwards to answer any questions.



WORLD RIVERS DAY SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER PROTEST IN THE PARK



The River Ver our local chalk stream. Near Redbournbury 14 September 2019



WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

It seems that the Government and its agencies feel that low flow and no flow in rivers like the Ver, are acceptable levels of environmental damage in pursuit of public water supply. More than anything else, we need to change the balance and give the environment a higher priority.

The Ver Valley Society has been lobbying government, engaging with the Environment Agency and talking with Affinity Water in pursuit of short, medium and long term solutions. We need more water for us to all to drink and enough to be left for our rivers, like the Ver. The response has been too slow and we need more to happen, more quickly.

Turning up today is already a great step to show just how much we all value our river and demonstrate that we are not prepared for it to be sacrificed in the name of progress. But let's keep up the pressure on the Government, its agencies (Defra, EA and Ofwat) and Affinity Water

THE RIVER VER OUR LOCAL CHALK STREAM



The River Ver, one of only 200 chalk streams in the world, flows from the Chiltern Hills south through St Albans and joins the River Colne near Bricket Wood.

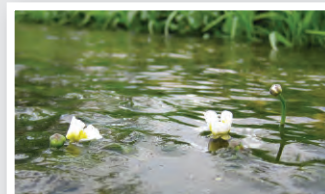
It enjoys a unique, biodiverse ecosystem because of the clear, chalk-filtered water and its stable water temperatures. The Ver should be a wildlife rich, stress-free environment for the whole community to enjoy.

Today, more than ever, the River Ver is under threat. Millions of litres of water are pumped from the Ver Valley every day and the demand for water continues to increase. The Ver is only 28km long but 14km from Kensworth to Redbournbury is bone dry. And there's barely a drop through St Albans.

Help keep the Ver alive and flowing. Join us today!

Sign up online at RiverVer.co.uk/join-us

Thanks to jenroffe.com for lending her St Albans map. Design & print: emberdesigns.co.uk



TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE VER

Here are some things you can do to help, some are exciting and some are less so! The more you can do the better but just one would be fine.

ONE

Social media: **Get your phone out!**

Let's show how much our community values the River Ver for recreation, for dog-walking, for kids' fishing, for walking, for relaxation and more.

- Use **#riverver** to post photos of how the river looks. Post pics of you and your friends & family near the river, old photos, then & now etc.
- Tag us **@VerValleySoc** on Facebook, twitter and Instagram, we can share them too. If you don't do social media, email us your photos and we'll use them for you.

TWO

Write/Email to Affinity Water complaints.central@affinitywater.co.uk

- Ask for increased publicity for water saving messages
- Call for fast tracking of new strategic resources like the South East Strategic Reservoir at Abingdon so there's more room to protect the environment when groundwater is low.
- Demand that some water from new strategic schemes is formally committed to further reducing the abstraction from chalk aquifer, especially at the head of the Ver Valley

THREE

Write/Email to Defra and the Environment Agency water.resources@defra.gov.uk and enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

- Call for fast tracking of new strategic resources like the South East Strategic Reservoir at Abingdon so there's more room to protect the environment when groundwater is low.
- Demand that some water from new strategic schemes is formally committed to further reducing the abstraction from chalk aquifer, especially at the head of the Ver Valley

FOUR

Tell your local MP how bad you think the situation on the Ver is and ask them to save our chalk stream. Most of the Ver is covered by **bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk**, **maina@parliament.uk** or **penningm@parliament.uk**

FIVE

Join the Ver Valley Society to make our voice heard more effectively www.riverver.co.uk/join-us

SIX

Ver Valley Society monthly working parties: come and help – do your bit for the little river we do have. **Next : Sat 16th Nov., Sopwell Nunnery Green.**

SEVEN

Use water wisely and save as much as you can. www.affinitywater.co.uk/saving-water.aspx

EIGHT

Report leaks. In dry weather they are easy to see – report to **Affinity Water (0800 376 5325)** and post photos on social media. We would prefer the water in the Ver than running down the road!

NINE

Join our lobbying work group and help bring a change to Government's view of what's acceptable damage to do to the environment in the name of public water supply - email our Chairman, John Pritchard: johnp@riverver.co.uk

TEN

Respond to the DEFRA consultation: Measures to Reduce Personal Water Use - closes 11th October. Details at www.riverver.co.uk/tell-the-government/

Sign up online at RiverVer.co.uk/join-us

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