



Welcome back to the Second Issue of the Source to Tap Newsletter

In this issue you'll find out all about the news and events since we launched in December 2017. We have had a whirl wind few months, from bringing the Source to Tap message to local communities and groups, to designing our Pilot Land Incentive Scheme, and upskilling our Project Officers in farm advice and water safety. We have also learned a lot from those we have met along the way especially in our series of 'Discover your River Events'. [Read all about it here.](#)

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A Stream of thoughts

On Wednesday 9th May 2018 our first 'Discover your River' event took place in Castlederg and it was a triumph!



Project officers Lisa Stewart, Lyndsey Herron and Patrick Gallagher presenting at Derg Event.

The idea behind these events is to gather communities together to talk about their rivers and how as a community they can develop a plan to ensure the preservation and enhancement of their shared water environment.

To begin with, we asked attendees to plot where they originated from on the catchment map. The idea of this was to allow participants to realise their proximity

and relationship to the river environment. It is our intention to use the same catchment map at each successive event. By building a picture of the distribution of attendees at each event, we can later identify areas of the catchment from which there has been little or no representation.

We broke the ice by asking each participant to reminisce and share memories of the River Derg from over the years. Among the chuckling, we had memories of learning to swim while trying to navigate past the huge salmon that swam there. One remembered fishing as a youngster, where now they have no access. One remembered poachers and the river through the Troubles. The desired side-effect of this exercise was to 'ground' people's thinking in what can realistically be achieved for the river.

We had a shared discussion about the river today and we asked, "what does the community envision for the river in the future?" We suggested how Source to Tap could help aid this. The participants were especially interested in learning more about the grants that will soon be available to farmers along the river to help improve water quality as part of a sustainable farming business.

The visions shared will ultimately feed into a Derg Community-led plan for the river. We had one attendee suggest that people would like to hear more about what is good about their local river in the form of a news board. The evening ended by asking the group, "What needs to be done? Who needs to be involved? What is your role?"

These 'Discover your River' events will be repeated across the Erne and Derg Catchments over the next few months.

The future of your river is in your hands.

For more events click here:

[Events](#)

The Source to Tap Project out on the road

The first round of Roadshows was a success! We hosted them at community venues in Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, then to Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, Clones, Co. Monaghan, Tanagh Co. Monaghan, Cavan Town and Cootehill, Co. Cavan, Castlederg, Co. Tyrone and Killeter, Co. Tyrone. We opened these events to all community members with an interest in the rivers and lakes in the Erne catchment area and Derg catchment area.

The Roadshows were an opportunity for the local communities to along to hear about Source to Tap and to meet other like-minded individuals. We delivered a presentation on the Source to Tap project and this was followed by a discussion around raising awareness of the importance of protecting our precious drinking water resource and how attendees could get involved in the project through our River Fly Monitoring scheme.

We met some great characters along the way and learned a lot from past experiences and move forward with a renewed confidence in working together.



Members of the Pettigo Anglers at our Pettigo Roadshow event.

If you would like to get involved in Riverfly Monitoring click below:

[Participate](#)

Pilot Land Incentive Scheme- Coming soon!

Watch this space! A cross border pilot Land Incentive Scheme (LIS) has been developed by RSK Adas and we will be launching this summer for farmers in the Derg catchment.

Farmers will be able to apply for 100% funding for items such as: a contractor to spray rushes; installation of a sprayer loading and wash down area; stock fencing on watercourses; alternative stock drinking points such as cattle operated pasture pumps and improvements to farmyard drainage to separate clean and dirty water run-off. A combination of items up to a value of £20,000 for farmers in Northern Ireland and €23,000 for farmers in Ireland, could be funded per farm business, with the items being identified through the preparation of a bespoke Water Environment Management Plan for each farm business.

We will be hosting a launch event soon, keep your eyes peeled on our events section of our website: www.sourcetotap.eu/events/



Weed wiping contractor treating rushes as an alternative to spraying MCPA.



We selected a straight stretch of river to set up the equipment.



Project staff setting up water level recorders to monitor the height of the river.

Joint efforts, big impacts

Networking in general is important; it involves developing and maintaining connections with individuals, then mutually benefitting from this developed relationship.

Project networking is similar as it is useful for projects to understand what other projects in the area are contributing to better protection of water quality and biodiversity. It can strengthen the common goal.

Source to Tap hosted their first Project Networking Event and invited projects operating in the Erne and Derg Catchments. Our aim was to explore synergies between projects, opportunities for collaboration and to avoid replication and stakeholder fatigue.

We had 29 attendees in total, with 8 speakers, each of them delivered a presentation on the aims and deliverables, and location their project was covering.

We had Diane Foster- Source to Tap, Katy Bell- Co-operating Across the Borders for Biodiversity (CABB Project), Teresa O'Hare- Lough Erne Landscape Partnership, Mick Stinson- Boa Island Breeding Wader Project, Bernie O'Flaherty- Waters and Communities, Éadaoin Healy- Catchment Care, Andrew Gracey, Grassroots Challenge and Kate Crane- PhD in fresh water invasive species (Waterways Ireland/Queens University Belfast).

The project team captured the synergies between Source to Tap and the other projects. Several actions on the day were discussed which included:

- We offered to produce a story map of everyone's project sites within the area. To help with this, we asked each project/ organisation to provide a GIS layer file of their project boundary/ area which we will map into our GIS portal.
- We offered to host the presentations on our website.
- We discussed creating an inter project events calendar, so we could identify risks of stakeholder fatigue.
- We have since provided all attendees with a copy of the synergies table we created.



Mark capturing the projects synergies.

Pinpointing pressures to our fresh water environment

Source to Tap are lucky to have access to experts with a bank of knowledge and experience on farm projects within the Rivers Trust. Ross from Westcountry River Trust visited us at Source to Tap HQ to provide PINPOINT training. With him, we developed a Water Environment Management Plan (WEMP) for two farms in the Erne Catchment.



Ross explaining how soil compaction can impact water quality.

The WEMP sets out opportunities which reflect cost saving and environmental priorities specific to each farm. Wherever possible, an example of the potential cost saving or income is provided for the main opportunities to the farmer.

We considered manure, grassland, soil, waste and water management. We also looked at how each farm manages sprays and pesticides as this is one of the main features of the Source to Tap project.

Farmers, trust and the solution to diffuse pollution

In January of this year, our project officers had the pleasure of travelling to Clitheroe in Lancashire, England, to see all the amazing work Ribble River Trust are carrying

out.

We met their new farm advisor, Nick Prince, and Senior Farmer advisor, Sarah Bolton, who took us on a tour of the Ribble catchment and on a series of farm visits.



The Source to Tap Project Team out on a farm tour in the Ribble River Catchment.

Ribble Rivers Trust are working on several projects but what we were most interested in was the Farm Advisory work they do. In the Ribble Catchment, significant work is being carried out to reduce the amount of diffuse pollution entering rivers from farms with a view to improving bathing water standards and water quality for shellfish at the coast.

Nick told us how Ribble River Trust has mutually benefited from engaging with farmers, building up relationships and trust. This has resulted in a waiting list of landowners wanting to undertake works that improve both their farms and adjacent watercourses. This is what we want to achieve in Source to Tap: we see the farmer as part of the solution to improved water quality, not the problem.

From visiting the farms, we were able to see how simple measures such as fencing and tree planting along the river banks had stabilised and reduced river bank erosion. Nick showed us the opportunities for improvement at each farm and explained that, with the farmer, he would write these up into a bespoke PINPOINT report and give it to the landowner.

The idea of this is to identify areas for improvement on the farm, some of which are funded through the 'Keeping Rivers Cool' project by the Ribble Rivers Trust or through other agri-environment schemes.

This experience has been invaluable to the Source to Tap Project Officers and we look forward to using it when we deliver our pilot Land Incentive Scheme in the Derg Catchment, which launches in Summer 2018.

Water Safety First

As part of our trip to Ribble Rivers Trust, our project officers participated in a Water Safety and Flood Awareness Course, by Rescue 3 Europe, held in Clitheroe, England. As they will be working near water, through water sampling, farm visits and overseeing the River Fly Monitoring Scheme, the project officers needed to learn how to operate safely and competently within or near a water environment.

The course provided training on risk assessments, the hazards of water, the control measures to put in place to ensure safety, the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is required, water rescue techniques and how to use a throwline and the procedures required in the event of an emergency.



Project Officer Lisa practicing her throwline technique

Pesticides on the farm

The project officer's have completed the first stage of their Pesticide training at Cafre Greenmount. They completed the PA1 foundation course which covered aspects including legislation, product labelling, personal safety and contamination, pesticide storage, disposal, record keeping and environmental factors.

They plan to complete PA2F for weed wiping and PA6W, which involves training of pesticide use near waterways. We felt it was important to complete this training to be able to answer questions that farmers may have about rush management and pesticide use on their farms and to signpost them to further information.



Example of a pesticide storage unit at Greenmount Campus

Source to Tap take Balmoral Show

We had the joy of attending the 150th Balmoral Show last month.

We brought with us the Ballinderry Rivers Trusts' "River in a Box". The "River in a Box" is an interactive river in a box, which simulates how rivers form.



Our Project Officer Lisa explaining river bank erosion.

This is the only model of its kind in Ireland and allows students to become river managers and experiment with building bridges and other structures, as well as explore different types of riverbank protection options to see what effect this has on the river.

You can also be a bit more daring and change the course of the river or create a flood to see what happens. River processes, which are often hard to describe, happen in seconds before your eyes.



We explained here that poor land management, paired with flooding allowed for major soil erosion.

We had plenty of gasps and wows as we observed river banks lost to the river and we were able to explain to smalls kids and big kids alike how poor land management on the bends in rivers can make banks vulnerable to erosion. We explained how land lost to the river can impact on spawning grounds and to the productivity of the local farmer. We were able to “plant” trees on the meanders to slow the process of erosion, explaining how stabilising the bank is good not only for the farmer but also the environment.

As part of Source to Tap, we are attending agricultural shows - see a list of which shows here: <http://www.sourcetotap.eu/event-type/upcoming/>

Our funders

A project supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme,
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Our Partners



Upcoming events



Discover your River Enniskillen

Come along to
the Enniskillen Library,
Co. Fermanagh



Discover your River Belcoo

Come along to
the Belcoo LCC, Co.



Discover your River Cavan

Come along to
Johnston Central
Library Co.Cavan

19 June 2018, 19:00 -

21:00

Tell us about your
vision for your local
waterways.

Fermanagh

20 June 2018, 19:00 -

21:00

Tell us about your
vision for your local
waterways.

26 June 2018, 18:15 -

20:15

Tell us about your
vision for your local
waterways.



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