



## Roborough Rewilders Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1203077

[www.roboroughrewilders.org](http://www.roboroughrewilders.org)

### Spring Update



#### Otters!

The Wild Otter Trust picks up around 40 orphaned otters every year from all over Britain and Ireland and looks after them until they are approximately 14 months old. They then look for release sites, so we offered the Roborough Fields.

One of our volunteers made an artificial holt and on March 23rd two orphaned otters were released in our rewilded fields and are now living in our back field. Jo and Paul have been leaving food for them every other night.

Currently the male and female (originally from Norfolk and Lancashire) are staying put and are thriving.

To have two “Tarkas” on our rewilded land is wonderful and you never know, maybe one day they might choose to breed there.



## Leaky Dam Project

Nick recently completed a small project for a lovely couple in their stream valley. The stream has cut down to bedrock in places and doesn't wander about the valley floor as it should. They put in six "leaky dams" - brash and/or log piles - which trap long pools behind them. Apart from the pool habitat, the stream will drop sand and gravel into the still water and then spill out into the valley creating more of a wetland. In other words we are acting as mini-beavers - until the real things get there!



## Shows and Talks 2026

- 1) **March 4th Boniface Centre, Crediton. Nick gave a talk called "Rewilding; Why, how and the hope it gives us - Conclusions from a local project."**
- 2) **May 7th Greycliff - Nick to give a talk on the project**
- 3) **May 30th Roborough Fields day**

*Roborough Rewilders will have a presence i.e. the tent at the following Fairs and Shows and Nick would be very pleased to see you if you happened to be there.*

- 4) **July 1st/2nd - Groundswell Regenerative Agricultural Festival**
- 5) **July 5th - Mid Devon Show, Tiverton**
- 6) **August 15th - Dunster Show**
- 7) **August 16th - Wiveliscombe Horticultural Show**
- 8) **September 13th - South Molton Eco Fair**



## Water

Nick went to a talk recently by the West Country Rivers Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust on water use on farms, and he learned some interesting/alarming things.

Intensification of milk production means that cattle are now being kept in sheds year round. Each cow needs 60lt of water a day, so a herd of a 1000 (not unusual) requires 60,000lt of water a day, often taken direct from the mains.

In the south-west of England pressure on water supply is increasing: new houses, increases in tourism and the above-mentioned intensification of agriculture means we need more water. Meanwhile climate change is increasing drought. South West Water say they need to build a new reservoir but in the meantime there may well be water shortages and they will then need to decide who to prioritise. Do they cut off domestic supply to houses? (No) Industry? (No) - so that leaves farms.

The south-west is an area which gets a metre plus of rain a year. In the east, where rainfall is half this, the problem of water shortage is likely to be even worse.

So what is the solution? More ponds on farms, rainfall storage, planting trees and good, old-fashioned low-intensity agriculture with cows in fields.

## Film

We also wanted to let you know about a very important film, "The People's Emergency Briefing", currently being screened throughout the UK.

Andrew and Nick went to this 45-minute film which includes material from The National Emergency Briefing, held in Westminster in November last year and attended by over 1200 MPs, peers and leaders from throughout UK society.

The film makes compelling viewing, highlighting the risks facing the UK because of the climate and nature crises, and the scale of the response required. MPs are being invited to screenings and asked to support the parliamentary call for a national televised briefing.

The film is being shown in many different venues UK-wide, and the list of scheduled screenings is growing steadily. To locate a screening near you the organisers have produced an online map giving details of all scheduled screenings, at [https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map?link\\_id=4&can\\_id=0538c1ee00c73b4e6220626ec3a43f62&source=email-next-steps-for-your-screening-2&email\\_referrer=email\\_3185576&email\\_subject=next-steps-for-your-screening&&](https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map?link_id=4&can_id=0538c1ee00c73b4e6220626ec3a43f62&source=email-next-steps-for-your-screening-2&email_referrer=email_3185576&email_subject=next-steps-for-your-screening&&)

We urge you to attend a viewing, and to encourage your friends, colleagues and family members to do likewise.

Best regards,

*Nick and Annie*

Otter photos courtesy of Paul Hopkinson aka  
The Devon Artist <https://devonartist.co.uk/>

