



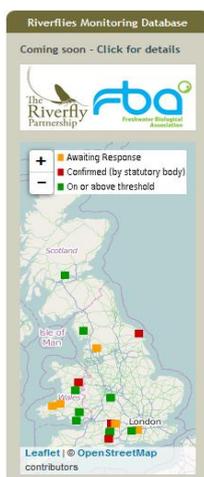
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Introduction to the new ARMI Coordinator

A very warm hello to all of you! My name is Ben Fitch and I am incredibly excited to have taken over as Anglers' Monitoring Initiative Coordinator. I started in the role mid-April and I am here on a full time basis so I look forward to working with and supporting you all hence forth. For those of you who don't yet know me I am making every effort to attend ARMI workshops around the country in an effort to see as many local groups, RP tutors and rivers as possible. In the meantime here is a brief summary of my ARMI experience to date. I became involved with the ARMI as a volunteer monitor in 2009. As part of the Wiltshire River Monitoring Scheme (WRMS) I attended a workshop on the River Wylde, lead by Cyril Bennett, and then began monitoring within a SSSI on the Upper Avon near Pewsey. Early in 2011 I became WRMS Coordinator for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and a successful partnership was born when Angus Menzies began volunteering for WRMS soon after. In 2012 both Angus and I became accredited as RP tutors and the development of the WRMS hub was complete. WRMS, in partnership with local organisations such as Salisbury & District Angling Club, Action for the River Kennet and Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, supports a dedicated network of volunteers who regularly survey around one hundred river sites across Wiltshire. I am confident that my experience has enabled me to hit the ground running and I want to work closely with all of you to drive the Riverfly Partnership and the Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative forward.



Online ARMI database update

The eagerly awaited live launch for the national ARMI database is now fast approaching. The database, developed for RP by the Freshwater Biological Association (FBA), represents a significant development for the ARMI, incorporating GIS mapping and enabling registered monitors to view their own time series ARMI data; as well as that of other registered monitors. Currently the system is running through final live testing with the help of Ribble Rivers Trust, the Dorset River Monitoring Scheme and WRMS. The trial is an essential part of the launch process, enabling us to identify and resolve snagging issues ahead of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland live launch in mid-July. Live roll out will be accompanied by training workshops, written and delivered by the FBA, with dates and booking information due to appear on the RP website shortly.

National Coordinators Conference

2014 is a very important year for RP and the ARMI leaving much to reflect upon and analyse after the end of September. To spearhead this there will be a one-day RP conference for Tutors, Hub Coordinators and Group Coordinators on Wednesday 19th November in the Flett Theatre at the Natural History Museum in London. Details will be released by the end of July but the day will likely comprise of presentations/talks in the morning and breakout sessions in the afternoon.



2014 ARMI workshops

So far in 2014 there have been 38 ARMI workshop bookings. Of those, 18 have already been delivered, there has been 1 cancellation and a further 19 will be delivered over the coming months. I hope that many of you have had a chance to see the excellent video about the ARMI, shot earlier this year at a [Calder & Colne Rivers Trust](#) ARMI workshop, delivered by Stuart Crofts. If you haven't, or if you would like another look, please follow the link above. If anybody would like to discuss or book a workshop please do contact me by email, ben@riverflies.org, and I will be very happy to help.

[Take part in National Insect Week!](#)

23-29 June 2014

National Insect Week (NIW) is an initiative of the Royal Entomological Society, supported by a large number of partner organisations concerned with many aspects of insect science, natural history and biodiversity. The aim of NIW is to raise awareness and understanding of the importance and fascination of insects, and the vital role they play in our world.

NIW 2014 will encourage everyone to celebrate the "little things that run the world". On the NIW website throughout the summer of 2014 and during countrywide events in and around National Insect Week itself, we'll be providing opportunities for the public to enjoy learning about the most abundant, important and diverse group of animals in the UK and the world – INSECTS.

The organisers of NIW would like to invite you to take part in 2014 by organising or joining an event.

Would you like to receive further information or help to organise an activity?

Please contact the NIW Coordinator, Luke Tilley luke@nationalinsectweek.co.uk

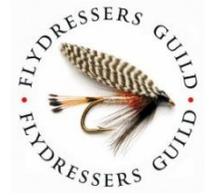


LITTLE THINGS
THAT RUN THE WORLD

[CLA Game Fair, Blenheim Park 18-20 July](#)

Ben Fitch will be representing the Riverfly Partnership on the Salmon & Trout Association stand so please come along, say 'hello' and chat about the latest RP and Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative developments.

On the Fly Dressers Guild stand the Wandle Piscators will be tying nymph patterns, identified from live kick sample specimens, and there will be an opportunity to discuss the Wandle Riverfly project.



Updated Contact details for RP

Thank you to everybody for your patience in the early part of this year, I know that some of you have endured a frustrating time trying to communicate with RP and the ARMI. Communications are improving now that I am in post and I want to assure everybody that I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible to any enquiries which I receive. I now have my own set of contact details in place, listed below, and I am currently working to update the RP website to reflect those details. Please note that I do not have mobile network coverage during office hours, unless I am elsewhere, so I would advise using my email address or landline number.

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