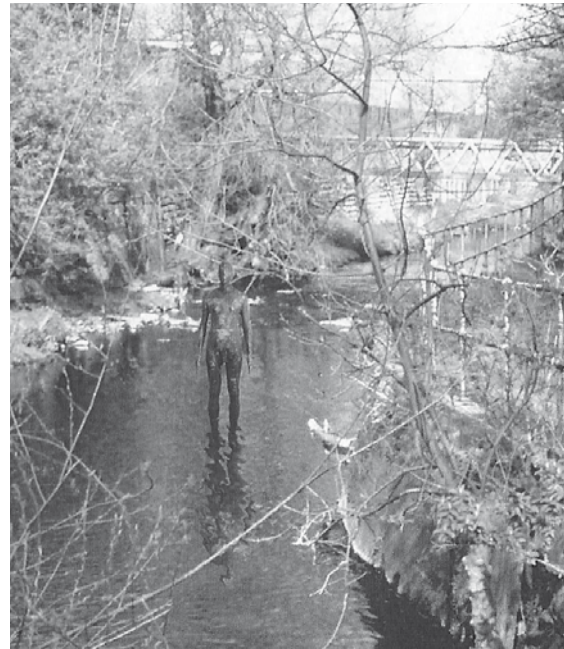


## **6 TIMES – Antony Gormley Statues proposed for the Water of Leith.**

Under the title '6 times' Antony Gormley and the National Galleries of Scotland are proposing a multi-part work which would position six life-size cast iron figures between the Scottish Gallery of Modern Art grounds and the sea at Leith, with four of the figures situated at various points along the Water of Leith.



Bell's Mill Figure



Bonnington Figure

Antony Gormley is an internationally acclaimed artist, earning recognition for his 'Angel of the North' sculpture in Gateshead and more recently the work entitled 'Another Place' where 100 cast iron figures were placed on Crosby Beach near Liverpool. This would be his first public installation north of the border.

The first figure would be situated in the Gallery grounds, buried up to chest level, the second placed in the pool behind Bell's Mill Weir in Belford looking down into the water in a contemplative pose. The third in the river in Stockbridge begins to look upward, the fourth is planned for St Marks Park in the Powderhall area, number five is in Bonnington near the new section of walkway and finally the sixth sited on the end of the abandoned pier in Leith Docks.

The figures, like those placed at Crosby Beach, are based on Gormley's body and will rust and age with time. As they will be in the water they will act as gauges for the height of the river and no doubt collect detritus. The works will be enigmatic and prove to be a great draw for visitors to the river, however their location and appearance will undoubtedly be provocative and stimulate discussion. The proposals are likely to go to Planning in a few weeks.

## ABSEIL FOR CONSERVATION

Over the Easter weekend, clothing retailer Fat Face and Ocean Terminal teamed up to give their staff and the public the opportunity to throw themselves off the Ocean Terminal building to celebrate their 'Big Boys Toys' event. We were delighted when they decided to nominate us as the recipient charity. Over 30 people completed the abseil, with only a few tears and screams to be heard. Sponsorship money is still coming in but it looks like the event will raise nearly £1000. Well done to all who took part and a huge thank you to Kelly from Fat Face and the Managers of Ocean Terminal. We have some great photos of the Event on our website – here are just a few.



## WILDFLOWER SURVEY RESULTS

During 2008 a team of 7 volunteers conducted an extensive wildflower survey along the lower 7 miles of the river. Led by volunteer Glenise Cook, each month volunteers would walk their allotted patch in search of wildflowers. We have been amazed by the findings - 211 different species of wildflower on this urban stretch of the river, with a number of unusual discoveries including Monkshood, Spring Squill, Lords and Ladies, Autumn Crocus, Common Spotted Orchid, and three different species of beautiful Bellflowers.

We also discovered 38 species of trees. This year we have begun surveying from Balerno to Slateford where we hope to expand the list. A very rich and diverse ribbon of green, pink, yellow, white, purple, blue.....

## MICRO – HYDRO POWER?

Since the collapse of the milling industry on the Water of Leith in the 1970's the tremendous power of this small river has not been harnessed to turn wheels or drive turbines. With the rise in interest in renewable sources of energy, increasingly communities are looking to small rivers as a potential power source, and the Water of Leith is no exception.

Micro – hydro power generation has a number of advantages;

- Water is an efficient energy source – with only a relatively small drop and low flow needed to generate electricity.
- It is reliable, unlike other renewable sources, with output peaking in winter month when flow and demand is higher
- No reservoir is required. Micro scheme can use existing mill infrastructure or be 'run of stream' technology.
- Integrates with the National Grid. If you make a lot of electricity you can sell it to the National Grid.
- Lowers carbon dioxide emissions.

But it is not all plain sailing, the disadvantages can be summarised as;

- A suitable site is needed and there are many factors to weigh up such as distance from the power source to the grid or recipient, stream size (including flow rate, output and drop), and a balance of all system components, batteries, inverters, pipes, etc.
- Seasonal fluctuation in flow can cause low power. Dry weather will reduce power output.
- The ecological impacts of small-scale hydro are minimal; but must be considered with any scheme. Water will be diverted away from the river and this must be done with care and an assessment of the impact on wildlife.



The Water of Leith could once again become a power house for the city. A recent feasibility study identified at least 15 sites have the technical potential for micro-hydro scheme. The Trust is interested in the thoughts of its members on this issue. If you have a comment please call or email [admin@waterofleith.org.uk](mailto:admin@waterofleith.org.uk)

## What's On

### SUMMER GUIDED WALKS

#### 31<sup>st</sup> May – Colinton Village Walk

Follow in the foot steps of Robert Louis Stevenson and James Gillespie on this guided walk through the village of Colinton, discovering its history and wild places. £3.50, members £1. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** Meet at 2.00pm in the Car park under Gillespie Bridge in Colinton, off Bridge Road.

#### 28th June – Roseburn to Dean Village Walk

A walk through the river heartland. Discover the beautiful Bell's Mill area and historical Dean Village. £3.50, members £1. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** Meet at 2.00pm at the entrance to Walkway on Roseburn Cliff off Corstorphine Road nr Murrayfield.

#### 23rd August – Stockbridge Saunter

A guided walk from Dean Bridge to Canonmills, discovering the social and natural heritage of this beautiful part of the river. Meet at 2.00pm on the old bridge in Dean Village, on Bells Brae off Queensferry Road. £3.50, members £1. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

### CHILDREN'S EVENTS

All events are on Tuesdays cost £3.50 per child (Accompanying adult free) & start at 2.00pm until 3.30pm. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** 0131 455 7367  
admin@waterofleith.org.uk

7th July - Minibeast Magic

Be magnified by the micro world of bugs

14th July - River Dipping

Join us IN the river for this favourite activity.

21<sup>st</sup> July - Water Force

Join us as we harness the power of water.

28th July - Wild at Art

Join us we as get creative with nature

4<sup>th</sup> August - River Dipping II

So popular we have to run it twice. Join us IN the river for this favourite activity.

11<sup>th</sup> August - Wing It

Discover life on the wing as we harness the power of flight

This year we will be organising a **RIVER RAMBLE** sponsored walk along all 12 miles of the walkway from Balerno to Leith on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**. Please register and help raise funds to support our work. Call 0131 455 7367 or email [admin@waterofleith.org.uk](mailto:admin@waterofleith.org.uk) for a registration form or download it from the website.



**Do not forget the PLANT SALE**  
**SAT 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 10.00am**  
**50p donation on entry.**  
**Thousands of bargain plants to be had, composting advice and yummy cake stall.**

### VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT ON THE UP..AGAIN!

2008/9 proved to be another record year for our volunteers. During the 12 months until March the team gave over 5500 hours of service, a 13% rise on the previous year. Many of the increases are due to more River Patrols, the efforts of the Wildflower Survey volunteers, and the Fundraising team who pulled out the stops for various events but most impressively 125 hours spent on the Duck Race. In addition we have had more help around the Centre with maintenance and administration. Reception staff and the clean-up tribe continue to keep the numbers up as well. Thank you to all...we literally could not do what we do without you.

### KINLEITH MESS

The credit crunch has had an impact on the river in Currie as developers Treetops went into administration. They had begun controversial work on the Kinleith site, when overnight the lot was vacated and it did not take local vandals long to attack the portacabins and structures on site. Office materials and furniture was turfed into the river and metres and metres of polystyrene littered the site. Needless to say the river bore the brunt and we had to call an emergency clean-up to sort out the worst of the mess. We have been assured that the portacabins will be removed soon, but rest assured we will keep a close eye on what is happening to the area.

### FLOODING UPDATE

The tenders have been sent and a contractor selected, so work is due to start in October time. Just 9 ½ years after the flood. The Trust and SEPA have been kept in touch with progress by ARUP, the environmental consultants for the project, so we can work with the contractor to try and minimise disruption to the Walkway and wildlife. Watch our website news feed for up to date information.

Reminder, the **fishing season is open** and free permits are available from the Centre and other places across the City. There is even a glossy new fishing leaflet.

# Water of Leith on the World Wide Web



[www.waterofleith.org.uk](http://www.waterofleith.org.uk)

Same address, fantastic new website. The Trust was recently awarded a 'Neighbourhood Partnership Grant' by City of Edinburgh Council to have a complete overhaul of our website, which is now up and running. The new easy to navigate site has all the information you would expect about the river, its wildlife, walkway and heritage, combined with a number of great new features;

- Subscribe to an e-newsletter or news 'blog'. Keep up to date with all river news and Trust activities by receiving a weekly email. You will be reminded of events and clean-ups, find out about the latest issues affecting the river such as flood works or path closures, and have the opportunity to comment.
- The Events Calendar lists all our activities in an easy to view format.
- There is an Online Shop where you can buy our new walkway map or join as a member. There is even the facility to donate to the Trust using the online shop.
- Keen photographers can share pictures on the Water of Leith Photo Pool operated by flickr.
- Easy and direct 'contact us' forms.
- Download useful Trust publications such as Events leaflets, Volunteer Information Packs and Registration Forms, Leaflets, Basic Maps, Booking Forms and application forms for the River Ramble in July.

We must thank CEC Neighbourhood Partnership for making this all possible, Ally from Greener Leith for all his technical know-how putting the site together and the small team of volunteers who are going to help keep it up to date. So please take a look and perhaps subscribe to the free news feed. We hope the new site will mean more people can learn about the river and become involved in its protection.

## Thank you.....

We have continued to have support from many quarters for our work both practically and financially. We would like to thank B&Q in particular Bryce Knowles, Service Manager, for a donation of paints for the Centre. Over the past month volunteers have been using the donation to spruce up the corridors and toilets. We have also had £100 from CSV Action Earth to help buy the equipment needed for the Big Annual Clean-up of the river. Members who signed Gift Aid declarations during renewal last August have enabled us to claim back thousands of pounds of tax from the HMRC. Thank you to everyone. Fundraising continues throughout the year so if you hear of any generous donors or know of grant schemes we can link into please contact Helen Brown, Trust Manager. Or to do your bit why not join the sponsored walk in July or join the Fundraising Team which meets regularly to plan events.

If you have an article, letter or photo for the next edition of Under the Bridge please send it to:  
**Water of Leith Conservation Trust, 24 Lanark Road, Edinburgh, EH14 1TQ** [admin@waterofleith.org.uk](mailto:admin@waterofleith.org.uk)

## How to join the Trust

Please enrol me/us as a Friend of the Water of Leith Conservation Trust. I enclose the following payment:

<b>Individual membership</b>	£16 per year
<b>Family</b>	£30 per year
<b>Concessionary rate</b> (retired or unemployed; students)	£10 per year
<b>Group</b> (schools and voluntary bodies)	£32 per year
<b>Life membership</b>	£150 single payment

Name..... Date .....

Address..... Tel No .....

.....  
Please post form and payment to: Trust Administrator, Water of Leith Visitor Centre, 24 Lanark Road, Edinburgh EH14 1TQ  
[www.waterofleith.org.uk](http://www.waterofleith.org.uk) [admin@waterofleith.org.uk](mailto:admin@waterofleith.org.uk) 0131 455 7367