



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Will walks Tall on the Wandle

William Tall, a volunteer with the Wandle Trust and its sister angling club the Wandle Piscators, has won a prestigious award for his contribution to helping to restore the River Wandle in South London. The John S Hills Memorial Award, created this year in memory of the late Chairman of the Thames Rivers Restoration Trust (TRRT), was presented to Will by Joan Hills at an awards ceremony at the London Wetland Centre, Barnes on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Will received the award for his outstanding work in bringing together a team of volunteers from the Wandle Piscators, who give up their spare time every month to test the quality of the water at 12 sites on South London's River Wandle, so that any pollution can be quickly picked up and dealt with. The team forms part of the national voluntary Riverfly Partnership's "Anglers' Monitoring Initiative", and their regular work on the Wandle, which is sponsored by Thames Water as part of the five-year "Living Wandle" project, has been hailed as a national model of best practice. Will also gives his time to educational work, and helping with river cleanups and restoration projects by the Wandle Trust and Wandle Piscators.

Theo Pike, Chairman of the Trustees of the Wandle Trust, and Senior Vice President of the Wandle Piscators, said:

*"We're delighted that Will's outstanding dedication to the Riverfly monitoring project has been publicly recognised with this prestigious new award. Most of our vital work on the Wandle would be impossible without our volunteers' personal commitment of time and energy, and it's thanks to the efforts of people like Will, who has created a national beacon of best practice, that the river is improving for insects, fish, birds and everyone who lives and works in the Wandle Valley".*

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Notes for Editors:

### **1. The Wandle Trust**

The Wandle Trust was formed in 2001 and is dedicated to restoring and maintaining the health of the River Wandle and its catchment in South London.

The Trust works with many partners in and around the Wandle Valley, and is currently consulting on a Community Catchment Plan to secure the sustainable future of the river. [www.wandletrust.org](http://www.wandletrust.org)

### **2. The Wandle Piscators**

The Wandle Piscators are the Wandle Trust's sister angling club, constituted on Trafalgar Day (21 October) 2005 in honour of the Wandle's most famous former fisherman, Lord Nelson. [www.wandlepiscators.net](http://www.wandlepiscators.net)

Since October 2007, Will Tall has been the club's Riverfly Co-ordinator, as part of the national Riverfly Anglers' Monitoring Initiative (see "The Riverfly Partnership" below)

### **3. Thames Rivers Restoration Trust**

Formerly the Thames Salmon Trust, TRRT was re-launched in 2005 with the objective of restoring rivers within the Thames catchment for the benefit of wildlife and people.

John S Hills MBE was the first Chairman of TRRT and died suddenly in March 2009. The Award commissioned in his memory is for outstanding contribution to any of the objectives of the Trust within the Thames catchment. [www.trrt.org](http://www.trrt.org)

### **4. The Riverfly Partnership**

The Riverfly Partnership organisations, which include more than 50 groups from Government Agencies to fishing clubs on individual rivers, work together to protect river water quality, further the understanding of riverfly populations and actively conserve their habitat. [www.riverflies.org](http://www.riverflies.org)