

Riverkin Exhibition in Knaresborough Library 21-28 June



Riverkin is a collaborative project between University of Leeds researchers and Nidd Action Group, exploring ideas about how the local community values the river

Events bringing people with an interest in protecting the river occurred during May 2025, and this included creation of some artworks at Knaresborough's Waterside.



River Nidd Memories and Ancestors

This picture, created by NAG's secretary James McKay, shows the whole river Nidd through space (a map) and time.

This was inspired by a wonderful talk from Hayden Turoa, from the Maori community of the river Whanganui in New Zealand, given at our Riverkin project event in Knaresborough in May 2025.

He described how rivers are permanent (though always changing) whereas we humans pass through the landscape like ghosts. So the picture jumbles together people from all sorts of different time periods along with all the wildlife, including the small invertebrates (river fly) that the river system depends on.

Some of the pictures represent legends and folk stories about our ancestors - they may not be real, or accurate. Some pictures represent James' own personal memories and historical imaginings.

All of us: modern people, our children, our ancestors, our stories and legends, animals, plants, rocks, earth and water are bound together by the flow of the river through time and space.

The picture was created live at the Riverkin project event at Knaresborough Waterside on May 20th (and was featured on ITV news) then finished off over the next couple of weeks.

Artworks and information from the project will be exhibited at Knaresborough Library (in Knaresborough marketplace) on **21-28 June** and later in the summer (to coincide with FEVA (festival of visual arts) on **4-8 August**).

Don't miss it!

Should we treat the river Nidd as 'kin' to the community?

This could be a good way to better protect the river from pollution in the future, and to engage the community in looking after the river and its wildlife, rather than taking it for granted.

Should we formalize our relationship as citizens with our river Nidd – perhaps through adopting a charter of rights for the river, along the lines of actions by Lewes District Council for the Sussex River Ouse.

[Charter for the River Ouse](#)

Share your thoughts on this with NAG via info@niddactiongroup.org