



Day festival
of stories, talks & activities

Stories from The Cambridge Storytellers

Introduction to the Community Garden and permaculture

Explore rain gardens, rain harvesting, and sustainable drainage

River and nature awareness workshops

Heart warming soup with local grown veg!

 Empty Common
Community Garden

Tickets
& Details 
bit.ly/wsc-river-23



After 4pm – Gather round the fire for chat and chai with members of the [Right to Roam campaign](#), including award-winning author & journalist [Amy Jane Beer](#).

Public ticketed event on Sunday, 1 October

'Dear River: Stories, Soup and Thanks'

Celebrate world rivers weaving through land, sky and all life on Earth.

Day festival at Empty Common Community Garden, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge.

Tickets: bit.ly/wsc-river-23. Questions about the event (or anything else):

hello@watersencam.co.uk.

As the nights draw in, join [Water Sensitive Cambridge](https://www.watersencam.co.uk) and friends in the Community Garden for a unique day festival. Fill your ears with stories, your belly with soup, and your heart with gratitude for the waters of the world that flow and nurture life for all beings. We end the week-long celebration of World Rivers (Starting with World Rivers Day, the fourth Sunday in September) with a day festival and special appreciation for our own River Cam and tributaries.

"Rivers are the arteries of our planet; they are lifelines in the truest sense." – Mark Angelo

Highlights:

- Stories from Cambridge Storytellers
- River and nature connection workshops
- Guided walk along Hobson's Brook and Vicar's Brook
- Learn about the urban water cycle and the role of rain gardens & rain harvesting
- Discuss equal access to open spaces and Right to Roam campaign

Located at [Empty Common Community Garden](https://www.w3w.co.uk/units/hops.rams) (w3w ///units.hops.rams) a gorgeous, inclusive permaculture food garden, a project of [Transition Cambridge](https://www.transitioncambridge.org). The site is bounded on three sides by chalk streams Hobson's Brook and Vicar's Brook originating from Nine Wells, the historic freshwater supply for Cambridge.





'Dear River' Festival: Partners & People

Water Sensitive Cambridge

A community-driven 'water-sensitive' approach in Cambridge, UK. We aim to change people's relationship with water through community-led landscape interventions, education and art. Help us to get the rain into the ground close to where it falls.

i 11:25 *Event organisers: Clara, James, Meg & Yair chairing and speaking throughout day.*

Cambridge Storytellers

Enchanting audiences of all ages in Cambridge for decades. They run online story rounds, workshops, and imaginative events in places like Wandlebury, the Leper Chapel, and venues in the heart of the community.

i 11:25 *Water Stories. Location: Heart of garden.*

Dr Steve Boreham

A passionate advocate for the water environment, and lead on conservation & citizen science monitoring projects. A founder and long-time trustee of Hobson's Conduit Trust.

i 12:25 *Water Walk. Meeting point: kissing gate by community shed.*

Tom Shopland

A co-design consultant and facilitator for community-led nature-based solutions. He focuses on challenges such as water pollution, drought and flooding.

i 14:00 *River Workshop. Location: Clare Woods (tbc)*

Sue Parlby

A community vocal facilitator and creative celebrant. She runs Pulse of Life which explores the connection in sound & movement between life's inner and outer rhythms and the wider natural world.

i 14:00 *Pulse of Life. Location: Heart of garden.*

Jo Sinclair

Author and inspired guide for recreational walking. She brings into her walks local knowledge, adventure, beauty and calm in the natural world.

i 14:45 *Nature walk. Meeting point: kissing gate by community shed.*

Right to Roam

In England we are excluded from hundreds of thousands of acres of open space - of woodland, meadows, rivers and their banks - yet in many countries, public access to it is seen as a fundamental right. How may we establish access to nature for everyone? Join award-winning author Amy-Jane Beer, Harry Jenkins and local members of the local Right2roam campaign around the fire for chai and chat.

i 16:00 *Fireside chat. Location: Heart of garden.*



'Dear River' Festival: Order of Events

Throughout the day: natural mandala making, gardening, information displays.

Time	Title	Details	Location
10:45	Arrival	Settle, and get comfy.	Heart of Garden.
11:00	Opening circle	Welcome, Housekeeping, Haudenosaunee allegiance to gratitude. Led by Clara and Meg from Water Sensitive Cambridge.	Heart of Garden.
11:25	River, Fen & Water Stories.	Malcolm Busby, Marion Leaper & Rachel O'Leary of Cambridge Storytellers. Planting Rain by Yair Perry of Water Sensitive Cambridge.	Heart of Garden.
12:30	Lunch & Water Walk	Depends on numbers. Poss two sessions, 12:30 and 13:15. Lunch: Soup by Meg, Bread by Mike. Walk: Learn about Hobson's Brook & Vicar's Brook	Lunch is served at shed. Walk: Meet at the kissing gate by the community shed.
14:00	River Workshop	Led by Tom Shopland, community facilitator.	Clare Woods Clearing (TBC)
14:00	Pulse of Life	Led by Sue Parlby.	Heart of garden.
14:45	Nature walk	Led by Jo Sinclair.	Meet at the kissing gate by the community shed.
15:30	Reconvene, reflect, close	Led by Water Sensitive Cambridge.	Heart of garden.
16:00	Fireside chat	Led by Right to Roam: Amy-Jane Beer, Harry Jenkinson & members of the local campaign. What next for the campaign, and what next for the Cam?	Heart of garden.



'Dear River' 2023 Festival: Notes

Transport - Plentiful bike parking in Empty Common Community Garden. Limited free car parking spaces in the Accordia on Sunday. The parking at the entrance of allotments is reserved for allotment owners.

Families - welcome. Possibly not suitable for really young kids.

Access & toilets - limited free parking in Accordia, with wide kissing gate into the site. Site is unpaved, but is easy to move around in for pushchairs and wheelchairs. A single composting toilet is available to participants.

Arrival and attendance - *Please aim to arrive 10:45* to settle in. We hope you can spend the whole day with us.

Bring - A refillable water bottle, reusable cup and spoon, natural materials to add to the mandala

Attire - comfortable, in layers for changeable weather. There is some moving around in workshops, so comfortable shoes.

Location - Empty Common Community Garden can be a bit tricky to find. Enter at the allotments at the corner of Brooklands Ave and Trumpington Road. Walk all the way through the site, and when you get to the end, stop! [w3w ///units.hops.rams](http://w3w:///units.hops.rams)

Food and Drink - Lunch: vegan vegetable soup and bread. Drink: Chai tea with oat milk. Water to refill your water bottle.

Contributions - gratefully received to cover costs. You can donate online via Eventbrite ticket, by QR code/phone, or cash in a bucket.



'Dear River: Stories, Soup & Thanks' is a unique one-day festival celebrating rivers by Water Sensitive Cambridge & creative partners.

Water Sensitive Cambridge CIC

www.watersencam.co.uk

A community-driven 'water-sensitive' approach in Cambridge, UK.

Let's plant the rain.

Follow us on Social media to hear more about our community-led landscape interventions, education & art.

@WaterSenCam on

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Email: hello@watersencam.co.uk

Mailing list: bit.ly/wsc-newsletters