

FoBB Meeting 22/4/2026

Pollution

Both Chellow Dean reservoirs have turned bright green with a bloom of toxic cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae. Reported to EA who already knew about it and are investigating potential sources

A concerned member of the public reported a manhole surcharging sewage onto the disused railway line at Thackley. I investigated and liaised with the homeowner whose garden it was flowing through. I reported directly to the YWS River Health Team and a technician was sent out the same day and cleared a blockage from the sewer downstream.

Several reports of sediment pollution to Fagley Beck were made to the EA during the recent ART cleanup. I investigated, found the source and followed the pollution down to the confluence with the Aire. The EA attended, spoke to the building site which was the source and took samples. Investigations are ongoing.

River Cleanups

A FoBB cleanup of Haigh Beck at Thrope Edge was organised in April and despite the low turnout of volunteers about half of the beck was cleared of litter and fly tipped domestic rubbish. The Springfield Centre kindly hosted us and provided welcome refreshments.

ART held 6 days of river cleanups in the Bradford Area as part of their "Roots in the River" project which is partially funded by the Barrat Homes Enforcement Undertaking for Fagley Beck pollution. Cleanups were held on Pitty Beck around the wetlands, Bradford Beck on Poplar Road, which the YWS River Health Team kindly supported, and 4 day's of cleanups on Fagley Beck. It was noted by all that there was a much reduced amount of sewage litter on the banks at Poplar Road. Hopefully, this means that we can expect fewer sewage spills in the future, or it may be down to reduced rainfall during a drought year. We will find out next year.

A monumental amount of debris was collected from Fagley Beck in particular. It was a shame that all the Bradford cleanups were not better supported by FoBB members.

Other Matters

I attended a joint workshop with Natural England and CBMDC as a representative of FoBB to discuss the way forward for the new Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve.

Irene and I did a radio interview with BCB to promote FoBB and advertise our need for a new Chair.

(Irene has taken the Chair advert to various libraries, community centres and institutions)
RH to do the same with the local churches who supported the FoBB Festival last year.

RH April 2026