

## Charmouth Dragon River Festival

A year of work by the Lower Char Community Group culminates in the first Charmouth Dragon River Festival on Saturday 27th May 2023.

The Community Group has been working with Wessex Water to understand when and where untreated sewage is released into the river and sea – and how to reduce the number of spills – especially in the bathing season. It has also been working to help get the plastic biobeads (which litter the river mouth and foreshore) cleaned up.

The River Dragon festival on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> is a celebration of the river and what it means to villagers – so there will be paintings, stories and photos contributed by residents as young as five years old and as old as 102!

The Festival starts at 11am with a procession of the dragon (carried by a dozen people) from Barr's Lane Recreation Ground (down the lane that run north from the pedestrian crossing lights in the centre of the village). The dragon will make its way to the beach (via Wesley Close and along the river) and then back to St Andrew's Hall DT6 6LH.

At 12.30 there will be a Dragon Naming Ceremony in St Andrew's Hall with singing, stalls, information and other activities at the hall throughout the afternoon. Stallholders will include Dorset AONB, Lower Char & Upper Char Community Projects, Wessex Water and Dorset Wildlife Trust – and there will be lots to learn for river enthusiasts of all ages about what we can all do to help clean up the river.

More details: [www.riverchar.org](http://www.riverchar.org)

Images:



Final\_Dragonac3 [the Festival Dragon being created by the Community Group earlier this month]



Dragon\_mistac3 [the 'Charmouth Dragon' which sweeps down the river valley and out on warm mornins]

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