

The Gathering: for water and Nature

March 6 – 15, 2026

Water is the driving force of all nature

Leonardo da Vinci



co-create
participate
support

Remember

That life is all about relationships -
with others, with water, with place
and with Nature

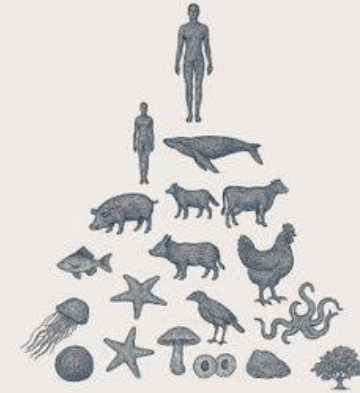
That being a good ancestor for
future generations means taking an
eco-centric perspective rather than
an ego-centric / anthropocentric one

Graphic: <https://kasperbenjamin.substack.com/p/wisdom-is-the-expansion-of-empathy>

EGO

HUMANS ABOVE NATURE

A worldview rooted in separation
and superiority—humans as
rulers, extracting from nature
without regard for the whole.
Intelligence without wisdom.



ECO

HUMANS WITHIN NATURE

A shift toward interconnection—
recognizing that we are one
species among many, embedded
in complex ecosystems. Equality
replaces dominance, but the self
remains distinct.

SEVA

SERVING LIFE THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

A regenerative way of being
where humans act as stewards,
expanding empathy beyond
themselves. Seva means aligning
personal growth with the well-
being of all life—through selfless
action, humility, and care.



no objectives

Reflect

on how we value water

Is it as:

- a universal gift from Mother Earth
- Earth's lifeblood, existential for all the web of life for at least 3.5 billion years
- Freshwater forms part of the planetary Commons (*World Economic Forum*)

Or:

- as asset, resource, commodity or property to own
- a thing, an object or site for human pleasure and well-being
- a means of transport for industry and goods



“Bizarre, isn’t it, that one of the most intellectual creatures that’s ever lived on the planet, is destroying its only home? I truly believe, only when head and heart work in harmony can we attain our true human potential.” - Jane Goodall

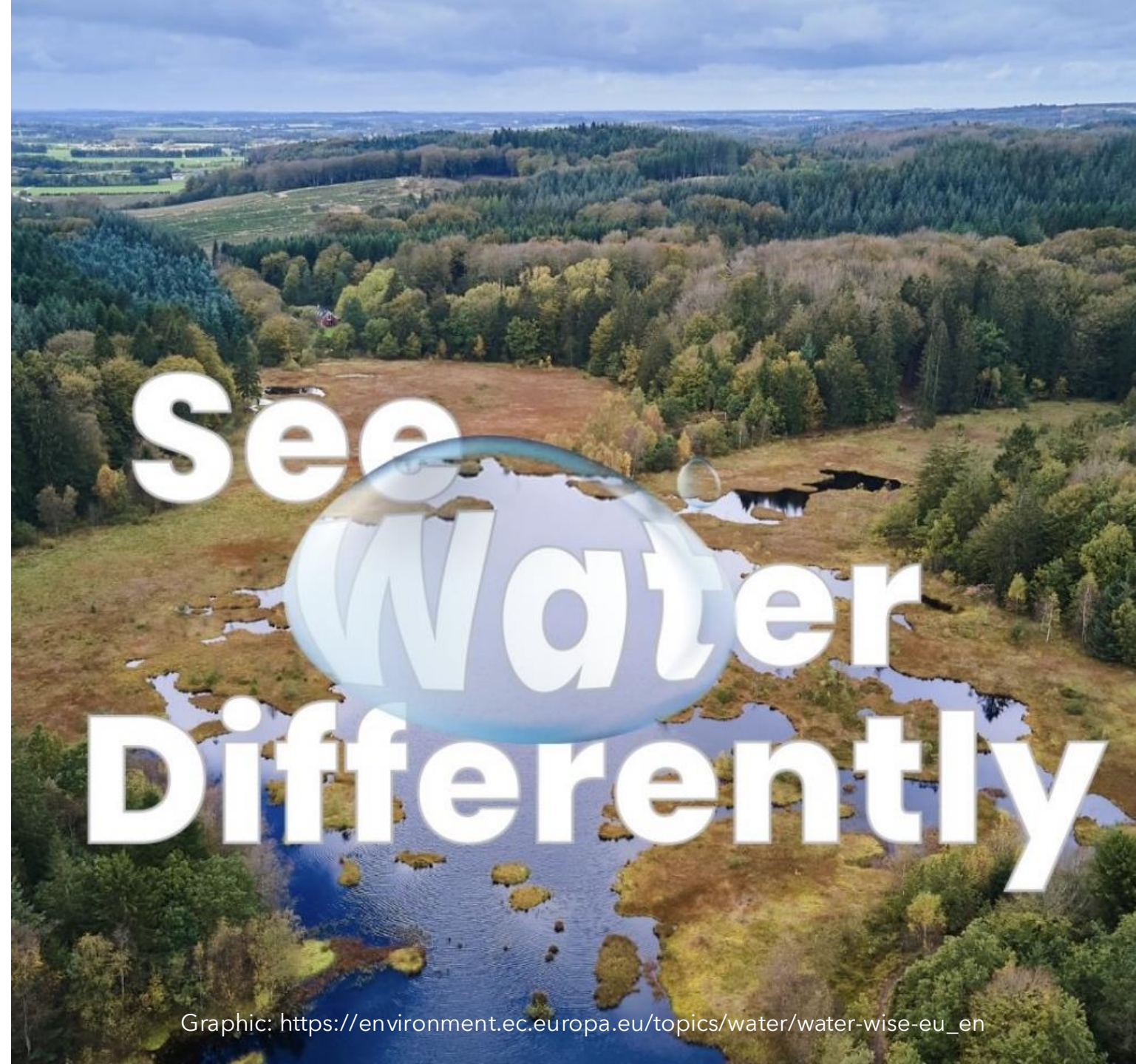
Restore .. by

Making space for water and Nature to recover and thrive

Being, and supporting ...

- Grassroots river guardians
- Citizen scientists
- River charters
- Riverside codes

Engaging everyone in various ways with long-term sustainable stewardship of local places.



Friday 6 March

Robert Macfarlane talk

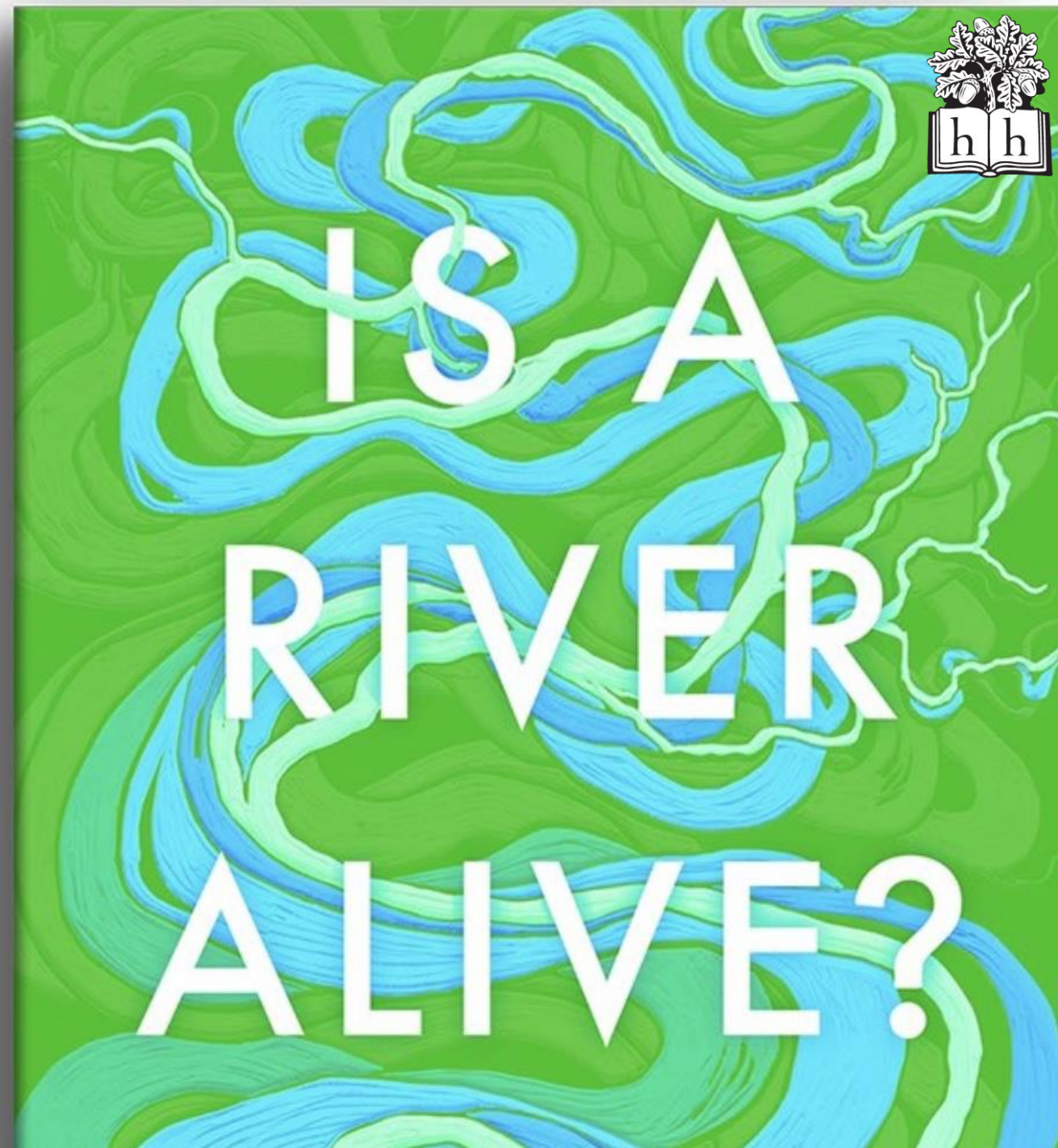


Stratford
**Literary
Festival**

Venue: Arts House,
Stratford-Upon-Avon

Time: *tbc*

Tickets on sale early 2026

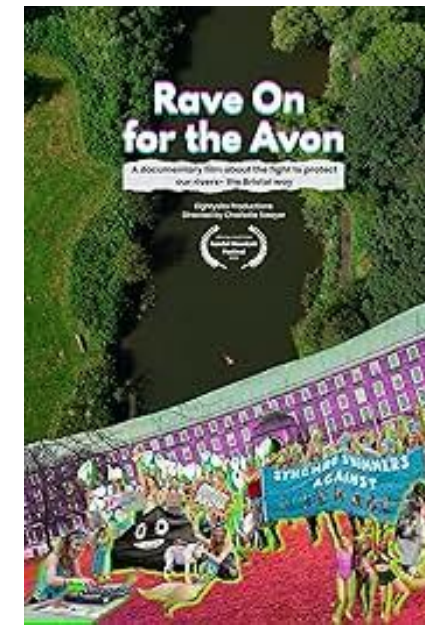
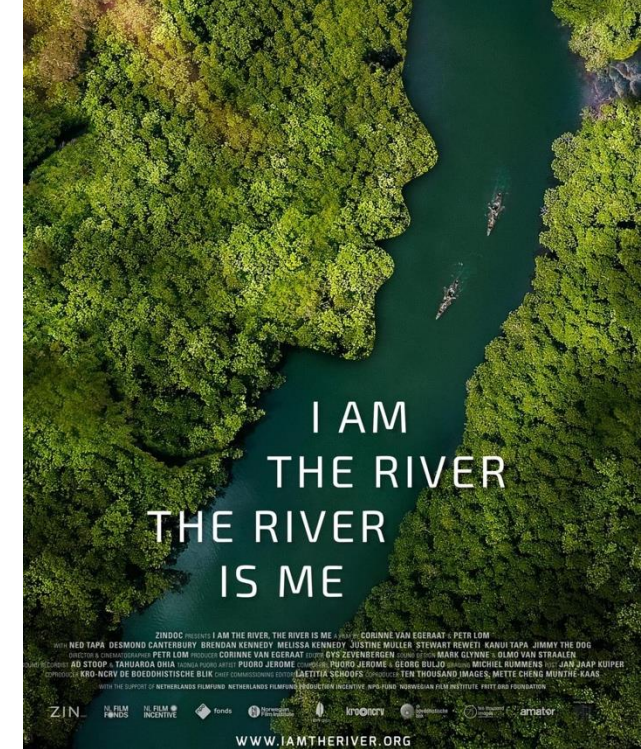


Sunday 8 to Wednesday 11 March

Film Festival

Screenings around the District – we are looking for:

- Help with fees for screening rights
- Loan or hire of AV equipment and screens
- Suitable community venues
- Publicity
- Volunteers



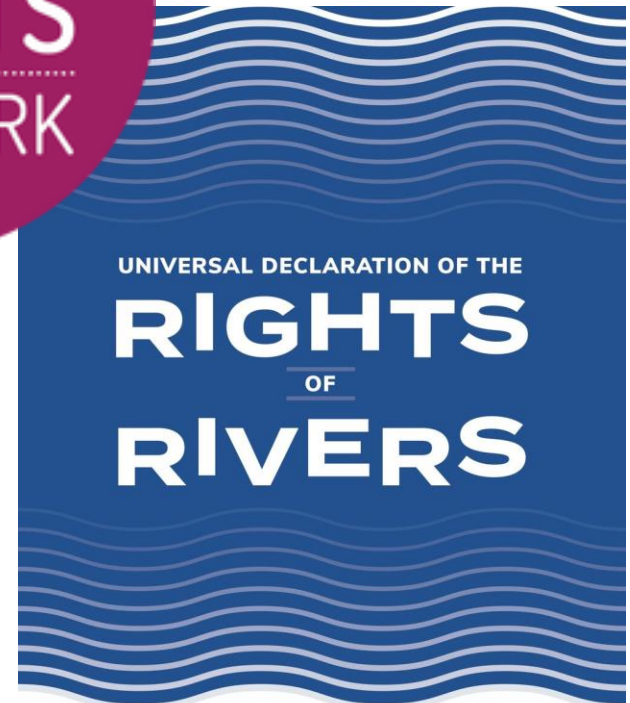
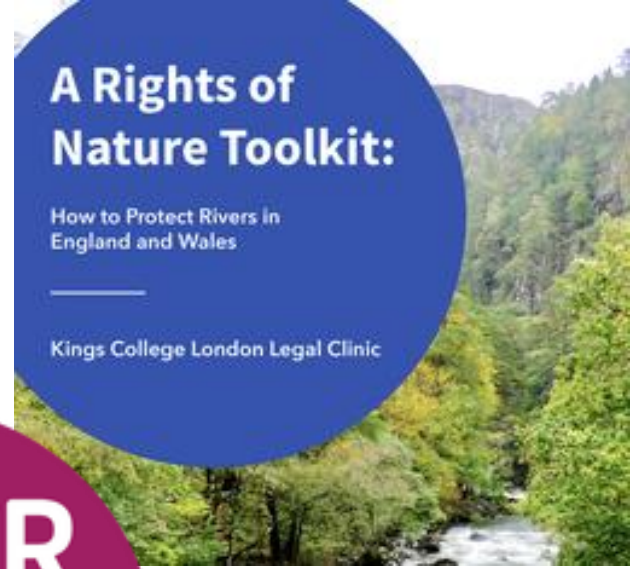
Thursday 12 March

Rights of Nature and rivers

- Introduction to the Rights of Nature
- Facilitated participatory workshop on how to develop local River Charters and Council motions
- The emerging role of 'river guardians'

Time: *to be confirmed* (duration 2 hours)

Venue: *tbc*



Friday 13 March

Living with water & rivers – now & in the future

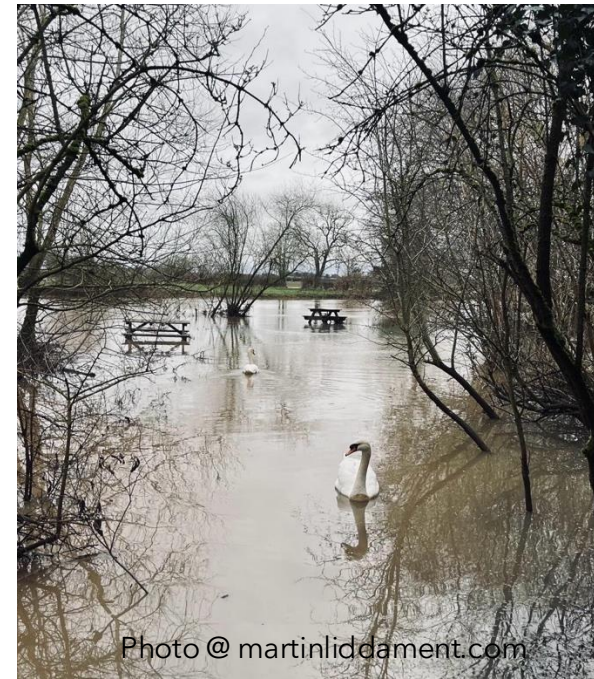
Full day programme at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stratford

Themed panel discussions with speakers and Q&A on:

- testing the waters
- hidden pollutants
- making space for water / where water meets land
- climate adaptation and resilience
- cross-party collaboration



Launch of Clean, Green, Blue Campaign



Saturday 14 March

International Day of Action for Rivers

Deepening relationship

Community-led ceremonies

- Express gratitude to water
- Imagine better relationship with Nature in local water places
- inspire stewardship

Venue: waterside locations, various times

Introduction to an Interspecies Council:

Facilitated by Moral Imaginations

Venue and time: to be confirmed



Photo © Moral Imaginations

Sunday 15 March

Celebrating water and Nature

Day programme at Crowne Plaza Hotel

Films, art and photography exhibitions,
poetry, water and Nature in Shakespeare
Creative workshop for '*Ondine's Odyssey*',
an educational river-borne art installation

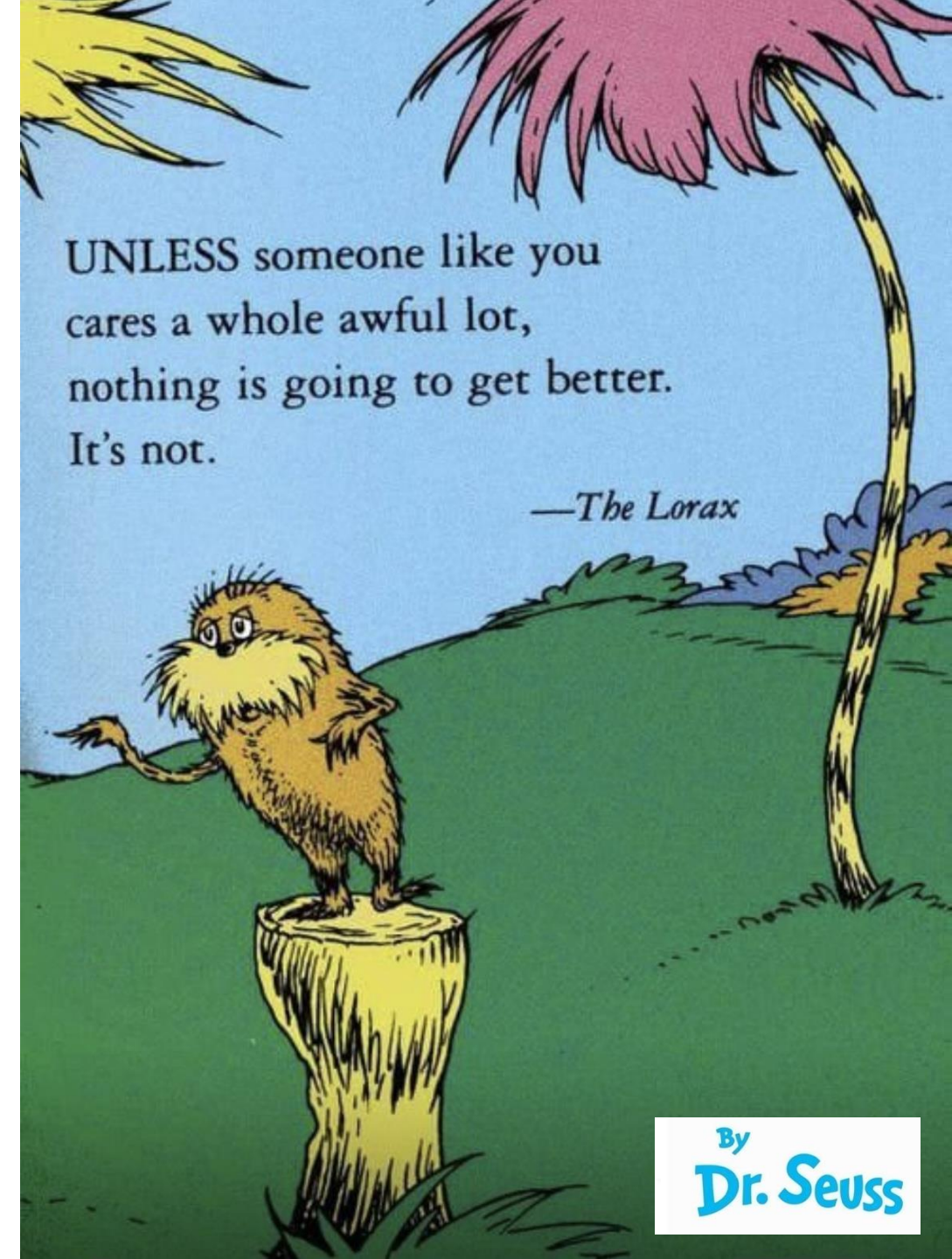
Action pledges and next steps



Photo: @ Warwickshire County Council 2025

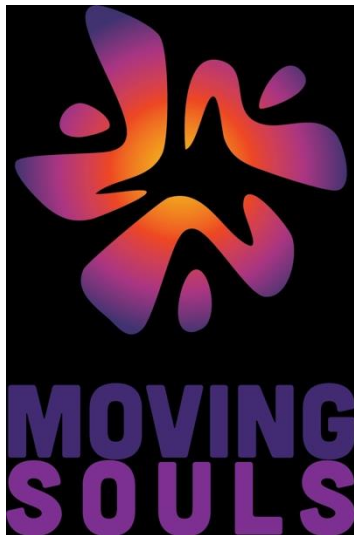
This is your opportunity to ...

- Plan / host / coordinate an activity
- Create an installation / exhibition
- Film equipment and screening right fees
- Speaker's accommodation, travel, small fee
- Food and drink for events
- Publicity, media coverage and social media
- Financial support and sponsorship
- Attend a progress update event to confirm pledges, fill gaps and build momentum
 - *Date: Thursday 22 January 2026 (attend an afternoon or an evening session)*
 - *Venue: Venture House, Stratford-Upon-Avon*



Making it all happen – join with (so far)

Grassroots and local



Others?

National

UK River Summit

UK River Rights Network

Moral Imaginations

Mrs Meg Avon

Others.....?

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<https://www.riverhope.org.uk/the-gathering/>