

Write the chalk stream.



Why not stop, pause a while and write a few lines...?

As part of 'Whispers of Chalk Stream' Project sponsored by Watercress and Winterbournes Community Grant and National Heritage Funding Helen Clarke and Sharon Witt from @Attention2Place have been placing 'Poetry Boxes' in accessible locations around Bishop's Sutton.

Who are the poetry boxes for?

Everyone! We hope all ages will get involved. The boxes are for both those who live in the village and those just visiting or passing through. Children may like to enter their poem in the Tales from the Riverbank Poetry Competition - a collaboration between the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme and Hampshire Library Service. More details can be found here: <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/watercress-and-winterbournes/tales-from-the-riverbank/poetry-competition>

What are poetry boxes for?

The Poetry Boxes have been placed around Bishop's Sutton to share responses to our chalk stream village. We invite you to open the box. Write a few lines about chalk stream moments and connecting to the natural world around Bishop's Sutton. Then pop your poem back in the box so other villagers can read and enjoy.

Words, prose, poems, and sketches are all welcome. Or, if you prefer, record a voice memo and send to Attention2Place@gmail.com. These boxes will be regularly checked. By leaving your poem in the box you give Helen and Sharon (Attention2Place) permission to display in the Whispers of Chalk Stream Project Exhibition (Bishop's Sutton Village Hall, July 2024), and in project publications. We are very grateful for your generosity.

What do the poetry boxes contain?

Notebooks, pencils, sharpeners, and poetry prompts.

Where are the Poetry Boxes?

- Phone Swap Box
- By the Ford (with kind permission from Ed Pettit-Mills)
- Hobbs Close

Why Poetry?

Poetry:

- Helps us tune into Bishop's Sutton and its chalk stream surroundings.
- Requires us to pay attention to engage in close and careful observation of places.
- Encourages us to slow down and tune in to the locality.
- To notice the same place at different seasons, in different weather, at different times of the day, in different moods.
- Can spark new connections, ideas, and possibilities.



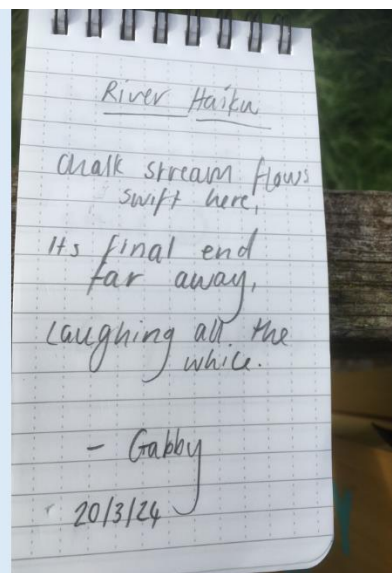


We would like to thank everyone who has engaged with the poetry boxes so far – we have had a wonderful array of poems from both villagers and visitors to Bishop’s Sutton. Here is a flavour of the writing found in the poetry box notebooks:

River Haiku

Chalk stream flows swift here,
It’s final end far away ,
laughing all the while.

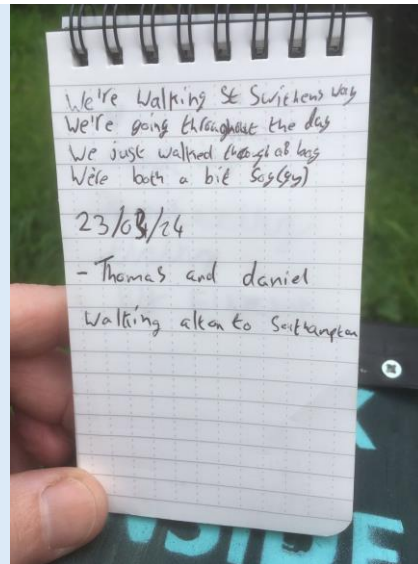
Gabby 20/3/24



We're walking St Swithun's Way
We're going throughout the day
We just walked through a bog
We're both a bit sog(gy)

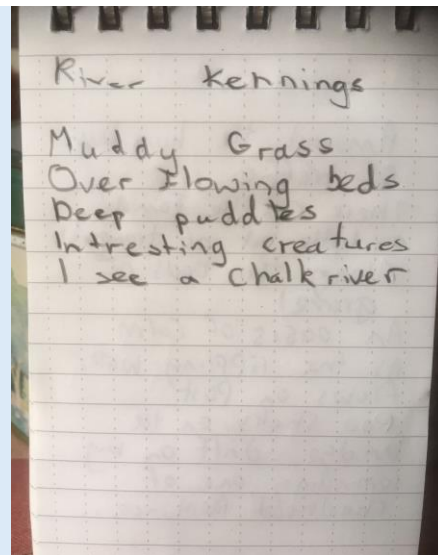
23/03/24

Thomas and Daniel
Walking Alton to Southampton



River Kennings

Muddy Grass
Overflowing beds
Deep puddles
Interesting creatures
I see a Chalk river



We cannot wait to share all the brilliant contributions with you later. In the meantime, it's not too late to get involved with the poetry box project – new poetry prompts appearing in the poetry boxes soon for further inspiration.