

Hi SFG Members,

Following another superb SFG event – please read on for an essence of the day and key SFG updates. A separate communication will follow about how we're moving our future-focussed (ATM) community-level initiatives forward!



### Reflecting on SFG 102

We've received so many compliments about this agenda – all credit and thanks goes to Charlie Perfect for inspiring our theme and bringing together an absolutely brilliant line up! He's also set a positive example in his role as Guest SFG Coordinator – showing us that it can be done and emulating the message that we are keen to support you with getting more involved in shaping SFG meetings.

From a motivating cinematic experience, Charlie's depth of commitment to the SFG extended beyond the day's theme, to playing around with different approaches – road testing ideas. We enjoyed hearing how some of our established SFG members found their career paths and advice they had for helping others along the way. It was also great to see some new faces on the scene and we've decided that speed poster presentations are definitely the way to go – amazing stories fitted into 1 min slots! On the back of creating space in the agenda to do this, we appreciated a huge effort was made during lunchtime to interact with the poster session. So, having taken your feedback on board we believe this is a better way for (1) poster presentations receiving much deserved attention and (2) nurturing SFG connectivity.

A particularly nice element, was that Charlie thought to bring in PhD student Kelsey Wilson for co-chairing proceedings. Kelsey, who disclosed she's never done anything like this before, gave it right good go and held herself extremely well – again emulating that the SFG is safe place to grow skills and confidence, with exposure to experience, in an informal and friendly setting, through time. Well done Kelsey!

All in all, we learned a lot about the practical realities of river, loch and pond restoration from people across our diverse SFG network – what's worked, can be improved upon, funding needs, changing values, teamwork efforts and the multi-benefits delivered. Thanks to everyone for passionately and candidly sharing these hands on experiences – emphasizing the rewards, challenges and importance of relationships for making a positive difference to the environment and communities of Scotland.

## SFG Autumn 2019 Meeting Announcement

SFG member Faye Jackson (Marine Scotland Science) has embraced the opportunity to lead coordination of our Autumn 2019 meeting – broadly themed around “**Eco-hydrology/Hydro-ecology**” which will take place on **Thurs 24 October** at Stirling University. The format has yet to evolve but is likely to consist of morning and afternoon speakers, 60s bite-size tasters and a poster session.

**Interested or know someone who is?** We’re seeking **presentations** which capture the SFG’s wide ranging interests (particularly inter-disciplinary research exploring interactions between hydrology and ecology) to showcase on the day. As customary, SFG meetings remain open to contributions on any topic related to freshwaters.

Expressions of interest are invited by email ([F.Jackson@marlab.ac.uk](mailto:F.Jackson@marlab.ac.uk)) **ASAP** – we’re really looking forward to supporting Faye during the coming months to help her vision, for this SFG meeting, successfully come to life!

## SFG Logo Announcement

It’s finally here! A massive thanks to Laurence Carvalho for doing the big reveal, on behalf of our fantastic CEH duo design team (Heather Lowther and Steve Thackeray), who’ve blended their exceptional creative and professional talents to produce the SFG logo – symbolising our inclusivity and connectedness to freshwaters.



This is a legacy milestone for the SFG community – providing an iconic identity for SFG membership use on social media, in presentations and with partnership projects. We also have a simple recognisable Avatar (top right) for our SFG Twitter and Facebook profiles. It was delicate balancing logo simplicity with the SFG’s favourite freshwater organisms – so we’ve produced a complementary banner-style feature to sit alongside this instead. Thanks again to everyone who influenced the developmental process and all previous SFG Coordinators for helping finalise our decision.

## SFG Moving Forward

If you've got ideas on future themes, how to make things work better and would like to get more involved with the delivery of SFG meetings (e.g. chairing, presenting, coordinating, etc.) – please have a chat with us or get in touch via the SFG mailbox ([scottishfreshwatergroup@sepa.org.uk](mailto:scottishfreshwatergroup@sepa.org.uk)).

The SFG's grown more than 20 new connections in the last 6 months and that's not counting our extensive following on social media – if you know of any people, institutions or groups who'd benefit from free membership and adding value to our existing SFG network, then please share these contact details.

And finally, we're always keen to hear from you!

Best wishes,

Pauline & the SFG team

