

# 'SAFE SUMMER'

## on THE RIVER DEE



Painting by Howard Butterworth

[www.butterworthpaintings.co.uk](http://www.butterworthpaintings.co.uk)

The River Dee is a major asset to the Deeside area. It attracts a wide range of visitors who use it for a variety of sporting pursuits and enjoy its natural beauty.

The river is frequently misused. River banks are used for camping and camp fires which can damage the surrounding environment with increased litter and vandalism. This also leads to pollution and endangers the varied wildlife living in and around the river. In the warmer weather the river is regularly used for swimming, and more dangerously 'bridge jumping'.

The river itself is a dangerous place, uneven footpaths, steep banks, fast flowing water, strong under currents and low water temperature are just a few of the dangers and it has claimed lives in the past due to inadequate preparation, supervision or unforeseen circumstances.

### Remember our river's dangers are often the ones you can't see.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2006 started like most other Sundays, we were going up to Braemar for a walk and having lunch at the Punch Bowl at the Linn of Quoich. The kids weren't fooling around or playing, just talking about how we were going to pose for the first picture of the four of us together. In that split second where we lost concentration Zoe was gone. None of us there had realised how ferocious the water was that day, or that there was an underground cave which would trap Zoe for over 6 hours. Zoe was a strong swimmer but that didn't help her. I wouldn't wish the events that followed on anyone, the lives of our family and friends have been changed forever. Having to phone people to tell them the news was one of the many horrific tasks I have carried out. I would give anything to be able to touch her, hold her, kiss her. All I can do is live with this empty feeling and wonder how things would be if she was still here.



*Thoughts of Jill Skea - mother of Zoe*

*Zoe Skea  
15 March 1996 - 7 May 2006*

### **To ensure you have a safe day at the River Dee, follow this simple guide:-**

- Children should always be supervised by an adult
- Do not enter the river under the influence of alcohol
- Fires should only be lit in designated areas and should be extinguished when you leave
- Respect wildlife and property
- Plan and organise your day and ensure someone knows where you are
- Check the weather forecast and go equipped for the conditions
- Beware of strong currents
- Be considerate to other people



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*Keeping our communities safe*



**The River Dee Trust**