



Don Network Newsletter

Autumn 2015

The **Don Network Newsletter** brings you the news of what's happening across the Don Catchment. **Got something to share?** If you have any news or features you would like to share please contact the Don Network.

Jumping for joy up the River Don

**Don Catchment Rivers Trust wins
Heritage Lottery Fund support**



Visitors to Yorkshire and communities along the River Don will have the chance to explore the rich natural heritage of the area thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) of £1.2m to allow the Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT) to deliver the Living Heritage of the River Don project. This project aims to reconnect people, communities and decision makers back to the river by enhancing and celebrating its rich natural, built and industrial heritage, changing beliefs and attitudes so that the river and its heritage will be better valued as a major asset to South Yorkshire and better protected into the future.

The Living Heritage of the River Don is a fantastic project that involves work in the river to encourage the once prolific salmon to return to the River Don. The project will also signpost a long-distance heritage trail from Doncaster to Sheffield and provide opportunities for people and communities to learn from the heritage that surrounds them, helping to develop new skills and interact with their heritage in new ways.

DCRT are also grateful to several organisations including the Environment Agency, HDH Wills Trust, Northern Rail, Gripple and the Wild Trout Trust, amongst others, for providing match funding. The work of the Canal and River Trust has also been vital in realising the ambition to return salmon to the River Don.

Karen Eynon, Project Manager for Don Catchment Rivers Trust said: “The rivers of the Don catchment historically provided prosperity to South Yorkshire; it’s time to recognise, restore and celebrate their contribution to our heritage. We hope to capture the imagination of the people of South Yorkshire with the return of salmon to the River Don and the signposting of a long distance heritage trail along the river and canal.”



Improving the Doe Lea

This year’s Catchment Partnership Action funding went to the National Trust to continue their work in addressing sediment in the Doe Lea catchment. Sediment from agricultural land, colliery spoil heaps and former industrial sites is a big issue throughout the catchment that affects both fish and invertebrates. The Doe Lea Project has been working with local communities, especially farmers and landowners, to reduce sediments and the flow rate of water into the river by improved land management. The project will identify priority sites for further work.



Bankside erosion like this from water and from cattle all add sediment to the river, particularly on flashy rivers like the Doe Lea.



Actions such as settlement lagoons, balancing ponds and cattle fencing trap silt and reduce erosion and provide habitat.



Tina Bardill, the Doe Lea Catchment Project Officer from the National Trust said 'Working with farming groups has made a real difference, lots of small actions across the catchment will eventually add up to a big improvement'.

Funding opportunities

Community grants from the Don Network. Five grants of up to £1000 are available for community groups for projects that will benefit the river and/or immediate environment. Examples could include funding a volunteer river clean up or small-scale habitat improvements. The closing date for applications is 13 December 2015. For more information click [here](#) or contact Karen Housham at donnetwork@DCRT.org.uk.

South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (SYFAB) can help you find useful information about funding, learn the skills to become a successful fundraiser, and get specific help with your funding. They provide information, advice and training on funding and fundraising to community and voluntary organisations. Visit www.syfab.org.uk for more information.

Don Network annual get together

Where: New York Stadium, Rotherham
When: 9.30 – 1.30 Thursday 19 November 2015

There have been some fantastic things going on across the catchment this year and this is a great opportunity to get together with other people working across the catchment and who are passionate about rivers. There will be information and updates on a variety of topics, along with time for some lively debate and lunch for informal chat. Topics are likely to include:

- State of the river and Catchment Based Approach
- Updates on projects in the catchment
- Update on the Environment Agency's Medium Term Plan
- Latest on the river water quality programme
- Shared learning examples

If you are interested in attending please contact Karen Housham at donnetwork@dcrt.org.uk

Sprotbrough Fish Pass – official opening

Ed Milliband will be opening the new fish pass and sculpture at Sprotbrough, Doncaster on 20 November 2015. More information from enquiries.northeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk



Environment Projects in the Don catchment

Here's an update of environmental projects where the Environment Agency is contributing funding. Martin Slater from the Environment Agency will be at the Don Network meeting in November to explain more about the programme and what to do if you have a project you would like to put forward.

Currently funded 2015-16	Lead Organisation
Barlow Brook Restoration	Environment Agency
River Rother Restoration Phase II	Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust/ EA
Living Heritage of the River Don	Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Returning the Sheaf to Sheffield	Sheffield City Council
Phase I Castlemarket culvert (local flood levy)	
Doe Lea Restoration	National Trust
Dearne connectivity	Don Catchment River Trust
Projects under development	Lead Organisation (to be confirmed)
Masbrough Weir gauging station alterations	Environment Agency
Denaby Washlands fish friendly valves	Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Houghton Weir bypass	Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Houghton Phase II	Environment Agency
River Don weir removal (Beeley Woods)	Environment Agency
Doe Lea connectivity	Chesterfield Borough Council
Upper Don spawning gravels/fish passage	Environment Agency
River Dove floodplain connectivity	Dearne NIA
River Rother Renaissance fish passage	Environment Agency
River Skell fish passage	Don Catchment River Trust

Living Went Phase II
Blackburn Brook Restoration
Porter Reconnections
Returning the Sheaf to Sheffield
Phase II River Restoration Castle market
Phase III River Restoration Broadfield Road

Yorkshire WildlifeTrust
Sheffield River Stewardship Company
Sheffield City Council
Sheffield City Council

If you have any news or features that you would like to include in future editions of this Newsletter please send them to donnetwork@dcr.org.uk or call Karen Housham on 07585 883419

 I'm part of the Catchment-Based Approach www.catchmentbasedapproach.org

The Don Network partnership is hosted by the Don Catchment Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency
www.dcr.org.uk/the-don-network

