



Don Network

Newsletter



Spring 2017

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.

Improving habitat in the Moss Brook



The Moss Brook, which rises on the southern edge of Sheffield, is very rich in wildlife and a significant part of the Moss flows through a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The [Moss Valley Wildlife Group](#) is active in the area and brings together people who have an interest in conserving the flora, fauna and habitats found in

the valley. Despite its high conservation value the Moss has a number of issues including high sediment loads and habitat fragmentation due to river barriers. The Don Catchment Rivers Trust has been awarded £5.5k from Yorkshire Water's Biodiversity Enhancement Fund to help tackle these issues and improve river habitat.

Getting wild in Barnsley

Littleworth Park

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has created a series of shallow ponds at Littleworth Park near Barnsley. The ponds will help with run off as well as creating new habitat. Despite this being a colliery reclamation site the park is developing into a successful acid grassland and heath mosaic and is a haven for wildlife like orchids and many invertebrates. Existing ponds and ditches are currently teeming with frogs and newts so no doubt they will be moving into the new ponds pretty quickly.



Lundwood sewage works



The Yorkshire Water sewage treatment works at **Lundwood**, which processes almost half of Barnsley town centre's waste water output, **is the latest nature reserve to come on board in the Dearne Valley.**

Half the site wasn't being used and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust saw the potential in this land as the perfect location for wildlife. The site regularly floods from the river Dearne and although it had "gone back to nature", it was nowhere near fulfilling its potential as a wetland nature reserve.

Ben Aston, biodiversity advisor at Yorkshire Water said: *"Working with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at Lundwood is a great way to unleash the potential of redundant land here and make it a bastion for local wildlife, such as the willow tit which is now a nationally scarce bird."*



Don your boots and get involved

Do you want to work as part of a team, get active and learn new skills? The Don Catchment Rivers Trust has a whole programme of training and volunteer days this spring and summer. There are regular clean up days on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a programme of Don discovery days which includes guided walks.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES

25th April: Identifying birds from birdsong
17th May: Pruning & felling
14th June: Identifying grasses & wildflowers
1st & 2nd August: Outdoor Emergency First Aid
16th August: Summer Tree identification



Training days are free; to book a place or find out more about any volunteering check the online calendar www.dcrct.org.uk or contact volunteer@dcrct.org.uk

Ackworth schoolchildren discover the river



The Environment Agency has been working with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the Wild Trout Trust and Ackworth School to **naturalise a straightened section of the River Went at Ackworth.**

Historic over-widening had resulted in a uniform channel devoid of natural features and low fish numbers. Deflectors, large woody debris and gravel have restored a diversity of flow and habitat.

The school will then use river as a teaching resource, carrying out Riverfly monitoring and how to rear 'Mayfly in the Classroom'.

Tesco Bags of Help

More communities are being invited to apply for funding Tesco Bags of Help.

Community groups across the UK are being invited to apply for Tesco Bags of Help funding as the application criteria opens to allow for more communities to bag some cash for their project.

To ensure that the programme is really local the number of projects funded every two months has been increased and there are new funding amounts – with £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 up for grabs.

For information on how to apply please click [read more](#).

Trust gets royal approval

The Don Catchment Rivers Trust has received the Duke of York



Community Initiative Royal Award which they present to community projects based in Yorkshire.

The Trust will be able to use the award on funding applications as well as access to staff mentoring and a small funding stream. Ed Shaw, Director of the Trust said “We are really pleased to receive this award – it’s a great reflection of everything we have achieved so far with the Living Heritage of the River Don project.”

Get out with INNS

Spring is the perfect time to get out and about and record information about INNS (invasive non-native species). All the aquatic and riverside species that are of most concern (like Japanese knotweed, giant hog weed and floating pennywort) are visible now and the INNS

mapper web tool makes it very easy to log your sightings online, investigate specific waterways and identify stretches that need targeting for surveying. The tool covers the Aire & Calder and Don & Rother catchments and is building up a vital and comprehensive map of INNs distribution. You can find the web tool at www.ywt-data.org/inns-mapper or email invasives@ywt.org.uk for more info.



All change at the River Stewardship Company



Following David Grey's departure, **Adam Rollitt has been appointed CEO of Sheffield based River Stewardship Company.** Adam's appointment is part of a wider recruitment drive to improve project development, management and delivery capacity.

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 07990 027703

 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

