

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2012

DON CATCHMENT RIVERS TRUST

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO....

Brief report on our current activities

The idea behind this newsletter is quite simply to keep you all abreast of current activities and for us to be able to use it as a vehicle for informing other individuals or groups of our activities

Chris, Tom, Ed, David and Karen are in daily e-mail or telephone contact on a variety of issues. We are finding that speed of passing information between us is vitally important as the deadlines imposed on us by outside bodies provide no time to involve all of you. This Newsletter will hopefully rectify that.

Meadowhall Weir Project (Hadfields Weir)

This project is not as far forward as we were hoping it to be. Despite many hours of work and lots of money spent, the owners of the site are reluctant to commit to us doing this work. We have made a bid to SITA for match funding to carry out the works and SITA are meeting with the Trust next week to carry out an assessment.

TOPICS

- **Meadowhall Weir Project**
- **Loxley Weirs**
- **Knoll Beck & River Dearne**
- **Bolton-on-Deerne eel pass.**
- **Project Officer.**
- **Don Catchment Pilot project.**
- **Bi-monthly meeting with the EA.**
- **Living North Sea - Eels to Edderthorpe Ings**
- **MSc Student.**
- **Website**

Loxley Weirs

DCRT have been successful in bidding for £29k from the fish pass mini-programme from the EA. This will enable us to carry out feasibility studies into the 8 weirs on the Loxley. We have also submitted a bid to the Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF) for money to install fish easements and passes on these weirs. We are in contact with Sheffield City Council planners and investigating ownership of the weirs. We expect to hear if we have been successful with the CRF bid by July.



Hillsbrough Weir

Knoll Beck & River Dearne at Old Moor RSPB Reserve

Another CRF bid will be submitted in May for works on the Dearne below the RSPB reserve at Old Moor. We will aim to remove one weir and install a fish pass on another, and also to install some groynes on approximately 850m of the Dearne. We have also bid for money from Biffa to remeander approximately 950m of the Knoll Beck, which flows into the Dearne in between the two weirs mentioned previously.

Bolton upon Dearne eel pass

We are currently still in discussion with Network Rail about permissions to install an eel pass under the bridge.

Project Officer

DCRT has received funding from the Environment Agency to enable them to appoint Karen Eynon as its first project officer. Karen moved back to Rotherham from Devon where she has been living and working for the last 10 years. Her main task is to identify problems within the wider catchment and look for funding streams to help rehabilitate the catchment. Since she took up her position, Karen has been bidding for funding, walking stretches of the river looking for any problems and meeting stakeholders.



You can contact Karen at: karen.eynon@dcr.org.uk or mobile: 07585 448710

Living North Sea – Eels to Edderthorpe Ings

We are receiving £2500 from the Living North Sea fund to purchase glass eels for Edderthorpe Ings. We expect the eels to be released in mid April – keep an eye on the website for updates.

MSc student

The Trust is collaborating with Lancaster University by helping set up an MSc project for student Chris Arthur on the invasive signal crayfish within the catchment. Chris' project will help us combat the spread of this invasive, and he is being assisted by Sheffield Action Crayfish. You can see some of the crayfish photos of this group in the gallery

section of our website. We are hoping that in successive years other MSc students will join us benefiting both us and them.



One of our native white-clawed crayfish surveyed in the Don Catchment, threatened by the invasive signal crayfish. Photo credit: Susannah Dangerfield.

Website

Our new website is up and running at www.dcrf.org.uk There will be changes periodically and we will always share our news on the website, so please check back frequently! We also have a Facebook page for those of you who use it. It's a good way for us to share information and gives us a wider audience.

Contact Details:

To find out more about the Trust or to come and join us please contact our secretary **Ed Shaw** - ed.shaw@dcrf.org.uk