



NEWSLETTER - JULY 2012



DON CATCHMENT RIVERS TRUST

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO....

Brief report on our current activities

Don Network

DCRT are involved in the Don Network which was set up at the end of 2011. The network is a voluntary collaboration of organisations and individuals who have an interest in the River Don and the wider catchment. The aim of the Don Network is to work together to identify problems but more importantly to seek solutions



Chris Firth speaking at the Don Network Open Day

On Friday 15th June an open day was held at The Source at Meadowhall with speakers including Chris Firth of DCRT. Chris spoke about the history of the decline of the Don which was very well received. The day was a success and well attended, with Timothy Kirkhope, Conservative MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber and Angela Smith MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge as well as Craig McGarvey, Area Manager at the Environment Agency and Graham Dixon, Director of Production at Yorkshire Water both of who also spoke on the day

For more information about the Don Network please contact:

Stuart Jenkinson, Don Pilot Coordinator,
Environment Agency Tel: 0113 395 4510

Meadowhall Weir Project (Hadfields Weir)

We now have a contractor appointed to carry out the works on Hadfields Weir, *A Torn Construction Ltd* had the most competitive tender submission and we look forward to working with them to complete this long awaited fish pass!

Unfortunately SITA turned down our bid to match the funds that DEFRA are providing but the Environment Agency (EA) has already agreed to contribute to the project.



Visualisation of the completed fish pass at Hadfield Weir

Loxley Weirs

The 8 weirs at Loxley are the subject of a feasibility study for easements and fish passes. The EA have given the Trust £29k towards this study. We are currently in discussion with South Yorkshire Archaeology Service as to how to proceed as the weirs will have some heritage/archaeology value. We have tracked down the owners of the weirs and our next step will be to contact them.

Our Catchment Restoration Fund bid for the Loxley was not successful in the first round of bidding but it is being resubmitted with alterations in the next round. When we submitted the bid initially we weren't aware that we had the money for the feasibility study.

Living North Sea – Eels to Bolton Ings

There has been some delay with RSPB and the required permissions to release eels and unfortunately it is now too late in the year to buy and release the elvers. However we will continue to pursue this action and look to release the elvers next year.

Floating Pennywort

In the last week of June Chris and Karen met with Ian Oates of Calder and Colne Rivers Trust (CCRT) and Peter Lindley of Complete Weed Control. DCRT and CCRT are working collaboratively to try and pinpoint 'hotspots' for floating pennywort in an attempt to eradicate it from the Don. It is a late starting plant so there were only small amounts of it when we were out but at least we now know where to concentrate Peter's efforts. We made some good contacts while we were out and hope to further this by getting out and about a bit more.

If you are aware of any pennywort along the rivers please let us know; look around the bankside and any overhanging vegetation in the river, that's where it is likely to be in the early stages. For further information you can look at this link

http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sci_programmes/documents/Hydrocotyleranunculoides.pdf



Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)

Leaflets

We have had some leaflets printed to raise awareness of DCRT and try and boost membership. If you know of anywhere suitable that leaflets could be left then please contact us and we can pay a visit or provide you with some to leave there.

Website

Don't forget to check out our website 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 and a Twitter account for those of you who use social networking sites. 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