



Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Working to protect and restore your rivers

Newsletter

March 2013

What we have been up to.....a brief report on our activities

Change of Directors

Regretfully Tom Wild has resigned as a Director and Trustee of DCRT. Tom, who has a full time job as Director of South Yorkshire Forest as well as being involved with DCRT, feels that he needs to focus his efforts on his work and his young family. Tom's efforts over the last 7 years have contributed significantly to the progress that has been made in addressing our objectives and we are more than pleased to know that he will remain a firm ally ready to support us. The Trust thanks Tom for all of his efforts and looks forward to working with him in the future.

On the positive side, Dr Ed Shaw who has been involved in the Trust for a number of years, has agreed to become a Trustee and Director of DCRT as has John Housham who has been actively involved with us for around a year. You can read a little more about them on our website. <http://www.dcr.org.uk/the-team-2>



John Housham



Ed Shaw

Loxley Weirs

We had a good attendance at the Consultation Meeting held on 15th January with lots of positive responses from interested parties. We have responses to the questions asked which can be found on our website here <http://www.dcr.org.uk/archives/1176> We have had a draft report from Arup with the final report due at the end of March.

Dearne Connectivity

Fishtek are working on the feasibility report for the Dearne Connectivity project. We expect the final report at the end of March and can look at possible funding routes for the project then.

Electrofishing Funding

We have been awarded £10,000 of funding from The Big Lottery Fund to enable us to buy a backpack electrofishing kit from E-Fish and to train 12 people to use it. The money was bid for as part of the Revival partnership (www.ywt.org.uk/what-we-do/conservation-projects/revival---new-future-lower-river-don) which focuses on the Lower Don. The kit is important as it allows the partnership, consisting of 18 organisations including statutory bodies, large and small charities and community organisations to carry out surveys on waterbodies.





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Trust support for effort to save the Don Catchment's white-clawed crayfish



The DCRT has agreed to support local group Sheffield Action Crayfish's work to save the remaining white-clawed crayfish in the Don Catchment. White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) are the only native species of crayfish in the British Isles, which was formerly a stronghold of the species. Unfortunately the species is being wiped out across its range and has been classed as endangered. This is due to the invasive North American signal crayfish, which is spreading rapidly across the UK and the rest of Europe, and carries crayfish plague, a disease lethal to white-claws.

Sheffield Action Crayfish have identified 'ark' sites (particularly isolated crayfish habitat) in the Don Catchment that will allow white-claws to persist without coming into contact with signal crayfish. Without the ark sites white-clawed crayfish will almost certainly become extinct in the catchment. A small financial contribution from the Trust will contribute towards the Sheffield Crayfish Monitoring Project which will check that the arc sites are successful, and will follow changes in crayfish distribution in Sheffield. Sheffield Action Crayfish rely on volunteers to do crayfish survey work, so if you are interested in helping out (survey training starts in May), or if you would like to find out more about the project please contact Brian Armstrong brian.armstrong@sheffield.gov.uk

If you are interested in the status of crayfish in the Don Catchment you also might be interested to read the work of Masters student Chris Arthur (see <http://www.dcrct.org.uk/archives/1026>)

Website

Don't forget to check out our website at www.dcrct.org.uk There will be changes periodically and we will always share our news on the website, so please check back frequently! We have a Facebook page and a Twitter account (@DonCatchmentRT) 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:

If you have any comments, want to find out more about the Trust or to come and join us, please contact Ed Shaw at ed.shaw@dcrct.org.uk or info@dcrct.org.uk