



CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter - December 2017

650 more trees for Hilcote!



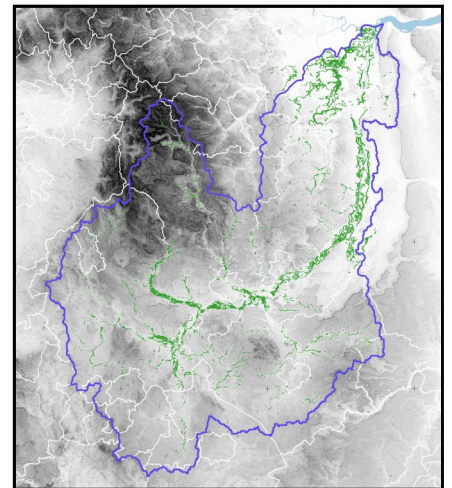
Following a hugely successful day of planting 420 trees with 70 volunteers earlier this year, volunteers from the [Hilcote Environmental Leisure Project](#) planted a further 650 trees in November.

This is in addition to the path that has been created around Royal Oak Meadows and seeds which have been sown to enhance the meadow. The site is totally transformed thanks to funding from [Biffa Award](#) and stone from [Longcliffe Quarries](#).

Interpretation boards and bird and bat boxes will arrive soon to keep the volunteers busy over the winter.

Plotting the ancient courses of the River Derwent

Researchers at Trent & Peak Archaeology (York Archaeological Trust) have recently completed a LIDAR and air photographic survey of the Trent Catchment, including the valleys of the Derwent and its tributaries. The project was funded by Historic England and has identified a total of 7110 channels, many preserving organic remains with potential for elucidating past environmental changes. The dataset of palaeochannel features provides a valuable research and management resource and can be accessed with the project report from the Archaeology Data Service website http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/trentcatch_he_2017.



Mercaston and Markeaton Brooks Project



Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Funds have helped in the installation of 575m of stock fencing alongside one side of a tributary to the Mackworth Brook near Kirk Langley, Derbyshire.

The farmer had already fenced off the opposing side in recent years and installed a system of watering troughs.

The field gate allows access for future maintenance of the buffer strip.

Photo competition puts adventures in the uplands in focus

Amateur photographers are being encouraged to enter a national photography competition celebrating British mountains, moorlands and bogs by entering images of their 'adventures in the uplands'.

The competition is organised by the Community Science team at the Moors for the Future Partnership in the Peak District National Park.

Entries are invited in two categories: Adults and age 15 or under.

The winner of the 'adults' category will receive an Opticron wildlife spotting telescope. Second prize is a walking adventure gear bundle courtesy of Adventurequip outdoor shop, while third place will receive a £50 voucher for outdoor clothing and equipment from Alpkit. The winner of the 'age 15 and under' category will receive a high resolution bird box camera - courtesy of Gardenature.



The deadline for entries is 31st December 2017.

To enter, submit up to 4 photos via the online entry form at: <http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/community-science/competition>

A DNA study of recovering otter numbers and barriers to connectivity



Researchers at The University of Sheffield are appealing for help to find otter spraint and mink scat for a DNA study to help otter conservation. If you know of locations where otters are present or spraint might be found please contact [Dr Deborah Dawson](#) so a researcher can visit and collect spraint. If you are willing to collect otter spraint yourself they can give information on recognising spraint and provide collection tubes.



They are collecting spraint and scat so that they can build on their [DNA-based study of Sheffield's otters](#) to compare the profiles of Sheffield's otter individuals with profiles from spraint collected in the Peak District and Derbyshire and identify individuals and territories. This will allow them to look at differences in otter distribution between sexes, seasons and landscape. For more information visit:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/molecol/deborah-dawson/peakdistrictotters>

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/molecol/deborah-dawson/sheffielddotterdiet>

Kick-start to Japanese knotweed control on the River Noe

This autumn great progress has been made in treating Japanese knotweed on the Grinds Brook and River Noe. Earlier in the year the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) identified the source of the problem and have pooled funds with the Peak Forest Angling Club and Wild Trout Trust to employ contractors to start control. The knotweed is being tackled from its source on the Grinds Brook down onto the Noe and into Hope. The majority of the knotweed is being treated by stem injection, which uses less chemicals, only affects the target species and is believed to be more effective than foliar spraying. Next year it is hoped Peakshole Water and the Bradwell Brook can be targeted.



Severn Trent re-opens environmental scheme for farmers



Farmers in the Derwent Catchment water safe guard zone are being given another opportunity to apply for a grant from Severn Trent to help them to protect local watercourses from pollution. The 'Severn Trent Environmental Protection Scheme' (STEPS), which is solely funded by the water company, supports farmers in making improvements to their farm management and infrastructure, reducing the risk of pollution from their land into local water courses. The STEPS grant scheme offers grants of up to a maximum of £5000 per year per farm.

Funding is available for a range of farm and field improvement works including pesticide handling areas, watercourse fencing, cover crops and much more.

The next application window for grant applications is from 1 January until 16 March 2018. For more information on STEPS funding, to book a farm visit or to contact your local Severn Trent Agricultural Adviser telephone Margaret Baile on 07789 903652 or click on <http://www.stwater.co.uk/catchment>.

Reducing diffuse water pollution in the River Wye

A stakeholder event was run by the Environment Agency and Natural England in Bakewell, bringing together farmers, landowners and key environmental organisations. Presentations were given about the water quality of the River Wye, pollution sources and models which aim to establish the nature of pollution sources and appropriate mitigation methods.



This was the first of a series of events about reducing diffuse water pollution in the River Wye; please contact [Monica Garcia-Acebes](#) if you would like more information.

Boxing Day Matlock Raft Race

The Environment Agency and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust are supporting a public awareness campaign to highlight the dangers to the environment caused by throwing objects at the annual Boxing Day Matlock Raft Race.

In previous years, spectators have thrown eggs, flour, plastic bags, paper bags and other products into the water, where they have posed a real threat to the environment and wildlife in the area. We are still seeing the impact from last year's event in the river today.

This year a campaign aims to encourage spectators who enjoy watching the popular event to leave their flour bombs and eggs at home.



Any support for the campaign through social media and other channels would be much appreciated.

Caxton Street Park Community Engagement Project



Derby City Council has plans to improve the small park at Caxton Street and open up the culverted watercourse that cuts across the park. Not only will this have benefits for flood risk reduction and pollution mitigation, but it will provide opportunities for wildlife and recreation. Re-development of this currently unloved park could transform it into an urban green oasis, valued and supported by the local community.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and Derby Parks Team are working together on a project to find out what the local community wants from the re-development.

The project will set up a number of engagement opportunities to harness the ideas and enthusiasm of local people and school children. The engagement tool for this process will be 'Planning for Real' that uses models and maps in an interactive and engaging way.

The findings of this project will feed into the developing plans for the park by Derby City Council. If you are interested in this project or would like more information please contact [Louise Valentine](#) (DWT) or [Amanda Patterson](#) (EA).

Amber wetlands



Through Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's [Living Amber catchment wetland restoration project](#), funded by [Biffa Award](#), wetland areas have been created at Doe Hill Country Park near Tibshelf, and on a farm nearby.

Similar work is currently being undertaken on a farm near Wessington.

**A very Merry
Christmas and
Happy New
Year to all in
the Derbyshire
Derwent
Catchment
Partnership!**



Funding links

[Funding Central](#)

[National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#)

[Heritage Lottery Fund](#)

[Landfill Communities Fund](#)

[Suez Communities Trust](#)

[Better Derbyshire Dales Fund](#)

[Veolia Trust](#)

[Tesco Bags of Help grants](#)

[WREN](#)

[Aviva Community Fund](#)

Catchment Partnership links



[Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership interactive map](#)



Follow the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership on Twitter at [@DerbysDerwRiver](#)

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust hosts the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is a local charity working to protect and conserve the natural environment, raise awareness of wildlife issues and inspire people across Derbyshire and beyond.

[Derbyshire Wildlife Trust](#), Sandy Hill Park, Main Street, Middleton, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4LR.

Please email information for the next update to [Kath Stapley](#).

Photo credits: DMJC, Monica Garcia-Acebes, Christine Gregory, The Happy Tree Company, Steve Malone, Moors for the Future Partnership, Jack Perks, Severn Trent, Kath Stapley, University of Sheffield, Stephen Wright.

The Derbyshire Derwent Catchment

