



CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter - June 2018

Water vole and otter volunteers



30 keen new water vole and otter surveyors took part in one of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's training days in Hilcote in April and have been busy at their chosen sites looking for signs of the mammals. They found out all about the habits of water voles and otters, how to survey a site and about a research project which Sheffield University is undertaking to study the DNA in otter spraint. There was a 'poo quiz' and they were even treated to several minutes of watching two water voles when they went outside to look for signs. Thanks to these volunteers, we will gain a much better picture of the distribution of these mammals.

If you would like to get involved please contact [Kath Stapley](#) to have your name added to the list for future training days.



Hope Valley Farmers

The Hope Valley Farmers Facilitation Fund group is facilitated by independent farm adviser, Chloe Palmer, and comprises 31 members who farm in excess of 4500 hectares of land. The group aims to collaborate to improve habitat for wading birds such as the curlew, golden plover, snipe and lapwing and to conserve and enhance species-rich grassland. The group is working closely with the Severn Trent Derwent Catchment Officer to improve water quality as a result of collective action to reduce the risk of diffuse pollution. The group was formed in October 2017 and to date five meetings and events have been held.

For more information contact Chloe Palmer on 01433 639829 or chloe@chloepalmer-farmenvironment.co.uk



Project Munio



Darley Park. Environmental enhancements are to be undertaken along the banks of the Derwent.



Project Munio is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a total project value of £6.3 million. Munio will deliver part of Derby's flood alleviation project known as "Our City Our River". The Munio flood alleviation works are in Derby City Centre; to the rear of Riverside Chambers, the installation of the Derwent St flood gate, works to Riverside Gardens and along the riverside path along into Pride Park.

Project Munio also includes environmental enhancements to Alvaston & Darley Park, Nutwood and the riverside path through Pride Park. The project will be complete by December 2019.

Email: Munio@derby.gov.uk

www.derby.gov.uk/ourcityourriver

Moors for the Future Partnership - Moor Carbon

Moors for the Future Partnership has been awarded over £3 million of government funding to deliver conservation works on seven sites, for the Moor Carbon project, covering more than 2,100 hectares of blanket bog peatlands.

The Partnership hopes to venture into new territory; into the newly-designated West Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as well as across the Peak District National Park and South Pennines. It will invite stakeholders in moorland areas stretching from Buxton in the Peak District, to near Burnley in Lancashire, to become part of this project. Works will also take place on Noe Stool on Kinder within the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership area.



Keep CaLM and carry on fighting for nature

It is with great sadness that the Moors for the Future Partnership will soon be saying farewell to their Conservation and Land Management (CaLM) team manager, Matt Buckler. Matt has been with the Partnership for over a decade and has helped to make it what it is today. We wish him all the best in his new role with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Brendon Wittram, the conservation contracts manager of the CaLM team, is also leaving us after 5 years of being a fantastic asset to the Partnership. We're sad to see him go and we wish him all the best in his new role working in Sheffield.

Another member of the CaLM team, Richard Guy, who works as a conservation works officer will also be leaving us soon for pastures new to work for Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Richard has been a brilliant staff member and we wish him all the best on his new adventure.

The Earl of Harrington's Angling Club

Approximately 5 years ago we were approached by Trevor Taylor of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust about us taking on Heatherton Pond as a fishery. Having surveyed all of Derby City ponds / lakes previously and with Heatherton Pond having scored very poorly, Trevor believed us to be a "good fit" to manage the fishing and manage the pond to "ecological good health".

Regular anti-social behaviour, uncontrolled fishing, margins pretty much barren of habitat and shrouded in shade from self-set willow and alder was what greeted us. Four years on and regular bailiffing plus a lot of hard work by our volunteers is really starting to bear fruit. A lot of tree work has been done to get more light into the margins and marginal planting is maturing very nicely.

A recent application to the Angling Improvement Fund "fishery spring clean" category has resulted in the award of £4,400, of which £3,600 has already been spent on pre-established coir rolls. About 100 linear metres have been installed by "Team Earl", which will address bank erosion, improve biodiversity, help to improve water quality and just to make Heatherton Pond a better place for everyone. The pond is really maturing very nicely thanks to our efforts and volunteers. Thank you Angling Trust!

By Dave Parr



Severn Trent Environmental Protection Scheme (STEPS)

Applications to this year's STEPS programme have now closed. We've had a whopping 320 applications this year, 37 of these coming from the Upper and Lower Derwent priority catchments.

STEPS aims to protect and improve watercourses and the wider environment by supporting improvements which are above and beyond good agricultural practice. Under this scheme Severn Trent provides grants up to £5000 for infrastructure improvement and land management changes.

More information on STEPS can be found on [Severn Trent's website](#).



Water Environment Grant (WEG) applications



We look forward to hearing the outcomes and supporting successful projects.

Derbyshire Derwent Catchment partners were busy in April and May, filling in applications for Water Environment Grants. Eight applications were submitted for the following projects:

- Clear Amber
- Enhancing the Ecclesbourne River
- Trent Valley
- Westhouses Weir Removal
- Mercaston and Markeaton Brooks
- Wye Catchment
- Catchment Woodlands - Leaves to Clean
- Building Blocks - Next steps to restoring hydrology

Bike to Wild - Saturday 30 June

Bring your [30 Days Wild](#) to a close with a host of activities across three sites.

Events will be across Lock Keeper's Cottage (Lea Wood), Cromford Canal, and Crich Chase Meadows. Wildlife themed crafts and activities and plenty of nature demonstrations - perfect for the whole family.

Make your day even more spectacular by bringing your bike and joining in the wildlife themed fancy dress fun!

Price/donation: £4 to do everything or pay as you go for activities.

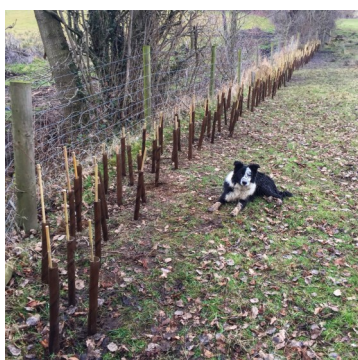
Time: 10.30am – 3.00pm drop in.

Contact Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on 01773 881188 or click [here](#) for more information.

Meeting point: Lock Keeper's Cottage, Lea Wood, Lea Bridge, Cromford, Derbyshire, DE4 5AE.



Biffa Award project film



To celebrate the completion of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's 'Living Amber: catchment and wetland restoration' project funded by Biffa Award, a short film has been made to show the achievements that have been made thanks to this funding.

Please visit [Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's website](#) or [YouTube](#) to view the video.

Change of Derbyshire Derwent Catchment staff

After 3 years at the helm of the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership, Amanda Patterson from the Environment Agency is moving catchments to the Soar. Our new Catchment Co-ordinator is Ryan Taylor who has been working within the Fisheries Department in the Erewash catchment. Huge thanks go to Amanda for all her hard work over the last few years and a big welcome to Ryan.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust welcomes another Living Rivers Officer, Scott McKenzie, who will work alongside Kath Stapley. He has been working for an environmental consultancy for the last few years and is looking forward to meeting everyone in the catchment partnership.

Dr Scott McKenzie — Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

"I have recently joined Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as Living Rivers Officer to work alongside Kath Stapley and lead the Derwent Catchment Partnership going forward. I come from a farming background and I'm a keen angler. Previous to joining the Wildlife Trust I have worked for an Environmental Consultancy as an aquatic ecologist as well as being part of the Environment Agency's National Fisheries Technical Team where I predominantly monitored salmon and sea trout on the River Dee, North Wales. I have also held a number of research positions throughout the UK and Europe where my focus was climate change and community ecology."



Dr Ryan Taylor — Environment Agency

"I have recently taken over the Derwent Catchment Co-ordinator role and am looking forward to working with other organisations and partners to improve the River Derwent. In my last role as technical fisheries officer I was responsible for River Trent and its tributaries as they flow through North Nottinghamshire; this was an exceptionally busy patch with a wide range of issues, projects and successes; but before then I was a post doctorate researcher for Hull International Fisheries Institute and was a Trustee for the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust and The Grayling Research Trust."

Signal Crayfish Removal Project (SCRaP) at Markeaton Park



The National Trust at Kedleston has recently launched SCRaP as a result of the discovery of large numbers of signal crayfish downstream of Kedleston Park lakes, particularly in Markeaton Park lake. Fortunately, a re-survey in 2017 revealed that there were only white-clawed crayfish upstream in Markeaton Brook and Kedleston lakes.

Conservation measures will include signal crayfish trapping and removal from Markeaton Lake for at least the next three years in order to control the population. The aim is to ensure the lake never reaches capacity so that the crayfish do not expand into Markeaton Brook.

The project has received support from partners including Derby City Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Earl of Harrington's Angling Club, University of Derby and Nottingham Trent University.

Future conservation measures will also include the installation of a signal crayfish barrier to Kedleston lakes and the creation of a white-clawed crayfish ark site upstream. If you are interested in finding out more or volunteering to help with this project, please contact [Adam Turner](#) (Derby University).

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 [Scott McKenzie](#).

Photo credits: Peter Eley, Phil Margett, Moors for the Future Partnership, Alex Morley, Chloe Palmer, Dave Parr, Jack Roper, Kath Stapley.

The Derbyshire Derwent Catchment

