

WANDLE WATCHERS

August 2015

Project News:

Invasive Species Project: It's been a bad month for invasive species in the Wandle Valley. Alan, along with an army of volunteers have been pulling **pennywort**, bashing **balsam** and injecting **Japanese knotweed**. The Wandle Trust are looking for River Rangers who will record and monitor invasive species along the Wandle. Training for River Rangers will take place on the **19th or 20th August**. Next year, a team will be trained up to manage invasive species and work alongside the River Rangers to control the species recorded. For Information email volunteers@wandletrust.org

Morden Hall Park Wetlands: Plans for the new boardwalk are being finalised, it will allow better views and access to the wetlands. The National Trust (NT) have a wetlands **speed volunteering** session on **11th October**. The NT are looking for **Wednesday Wetlands volunteers** contact [Clare Lanes](#) for more information. Volunteers and staff have received training to improve the management of the wetlands.

Industrial Heritage: Module 1—Documenting the changes at Merton Priory Groundwork London & [Merton Priory Trust](#) have held 4 introductory workshops at the Chapter House (with over 70 people attending). Training volunteers in Multimedia Research will take place on 9th September. To **get involved** contact [Nicky Judd](#).

Module 2—The Building Exploratory and the dedicated volunteers have recorded more than 50 treasures to date. These will be made **available online** through the Living Wandle Archive which will be launched in Autumn. They held a celebration event on 6th August where the **hand drawn map** was unveiled! See the latest [blog](#) to see if you recognise any of the treasures!

Merton Priory: Planning permission was approved in May for the installation of a dramatic new glass-fronted entrance and internal facilities to bring the Wandle Valley's most **precious archaeological relic to life!** Works will start in October, visit the Merton Priory [webpages](#) for more information.

The Chapter House will be open on 19th & 20th September (10am– 5pm), the final time before works start.

Social Landlords: Do you live in a vibrant Wandle Estate? Would you like to take part in **free nature walks, quizzes or river trips** to get to know your local River Wandle. Come and meet us to find out more and talk to us about your river. If you have a meeting place, community space or green space and would like the [London Wildlife Trust](#) to run activities with your community, contact [Jane Clarke](#) on 07837 576786

London Wildlife Trust will be at the **Carshalton Fair** (31st August) to talk with residents who live within social housing communities in proximity to the River Wandle. Pop down to the stall.

Wandle Piscators: The Piscators are holding a **fishing taster** and **Riverfly monitoring** event as part of **Wandle September** in **Ravensbury Park** on **26th, 10am—3pm**. They are still working with Wandle Valley School to deliver fishing within the school syllabus.



Pennywort pulling at Watermeads



Wetlands training at Morden Hall Park



The Wandle Treasures Map displayed at the celebration event

Dates for the Diary—Events along the Wandle

Wandle September - There are over 70 events happening up and down the Wandle in September, with something for everyone. [Download](#) a copy of the booklet or email livingwandle@wandsworth.gov.uk for more information.

12th Sep - [Urban River Walk](#) Wandsworth Park 11am-12:30pm

26th Sep - Wandle Trail Walk from Thames to Morden Hall Park, Meet at Wandsworth Rail Station 10:30am

26th Sep - [Wandle Piscators](#) open day @ Ravensbury Park 10am - 3pm

27th Sep - [Big Draw event](#) for adults (10am -1pm) and children (1:30 - 4pm) @ Morden Hall Park 10 - 4pm

Things to keep you occupied before September:

21st August - Balsam Bash and Pennywort Pulling @ **Watermeads** 11am - 4pm RSVP to volunteers@wandletrust.org 07833497599

31st August - Carshalton Fair in **Carshalton Park** (SM5 3DD) 10:30am - 8pm (small entry fee) www.envfair.org.uk

Keep up to date



LIKE '[Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme](#)'



[@livingwandle](#)

www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Living Wandle
Landscape Partnership



LOTTERY FUNDED

Volunteering Opportunities:



Wandle Valley Photography competition - Between **now** and **16th October 2015** Living Wandle along with the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust & the Wandle Valley Forum are running a photographic competition. **1st Prize is a £600 digital camera voucher.** Go to www.wandlephoto.com for more information about how to enter.

Invasive Species: The Wandle Trust are looking for **River Rangers** to record and monitor **invasive species** along the whole Wandle. Training for River Rangers will take place on the **19th or 20th August**. For Information email volunteers@wandletrust.org There is also a chance to pull pennywort and bash balsam on **21st August** between 11am and 4pm at Watermeads.

Wandle Watchers: This is a chance for **everyone** (you do not have to be an expert) to tell us about the **plants and wild-life** in the Wandle Valley. You can record **whenever and wherever** you are along the Wandle. Keep an eye out for wildlife and report it on the online form! www.gigl.org.uk/online/wandle-watchers.aspx



Wetlands Volunteers: The National Trust have a **Wednesday Wetlands** group and are always looking for more volunteers to help them manage the sensitive habitats. Get in touch to join the team Clare.Lanes@nationaltrust.org.uk



Wandle Gateways: Have you noticed some changes in and around **Poulter Park & Watermeads**? The [Big Green Fund](#) project is complete, there is now improved access for everyone to Poulter Park and the Wandle Trail. Watermeads, a National Trust owned site, has not been open for over 100 years, but is now open 8am – 4pm. Keep your eyes peeled for attractive **Regional Park signage** which will be installed in Colliers Wood and Poulter Park throughout Autumn. There will be two more gateways delivered in 2016, one at **Waddon ponds** and another in **Wandsworth**, these are currently being developed.



Catchment Plan: The River Rehab team have been busy learning all about how the river works and planning their own restoration works. You'll be able to follow the progress via the Wandle Trust [blog](#). Don't want to miss another event? [Sign up](#) to get the latest information from the Wandle Trust.

Wandle Flowing Through Time: The lovely [memories book](#) of this project available. It can be purchased for £15 via the [Living Wandle](#) team, or you can get a **FREE** PDF version.

River Education: Project Kingfisher is aimed at all educational institutes within the Catchment of the River Wandle, aiming to **connect schools with their local river** and its wildlife. Project Officer David Gill is working on a **creatures in the classroom** project. Watch this space!

Ravensbury Main Channel: Works on the main channel will take place in **June 2016**. There will be river **planting opportunities** once the physical works have finished.

River Guardians: 6 Living Wandle pollution clean ups have been held. The next clean up will be focussing on **Wandeful Wetlands** on **13th September** in **Ravensbury Park**, Merton. This will include Pennywort Pulling in the park. **Coming soon—pollution prevention leaflet!**

Coming Up.....

Discovering the Source of the Wandle: There is lots of debate around the sources of the Wandle. In 2016 the Wandle Trust will be looking for volunteers to help investigate archives and try to locate where the Wandle once flowed. [Sign up](#) to make sure you don't miss the chance to get involved with this project!

Waddon

Ponds: Final pond restoration works are due to take place in **September 2015**. TCV have carried out some pond restoration volunteer days this month in preparation.

Wandle Watchers :

There have been some fabulous Wildlife Spots so far, including a Mistle Thrush and a Kingfisher! Record your spots online using our [quick form!](#)



VANDALIS

The film is now available to **buy** (for £5) or it is free to **borrow**.

The film is a touching story of people's lives and their connections with the River Wandle throughout time. It tells the story of 6 different people.

For further information about the film please email:

livingwandle@wandsworth.gov.uk

