

# WANDLE WATCHERS

## Project News:

**Catchment Plan:** The parts of the river that have been re-naturalised at Butterhill, Hackbridge and Ravensbury park all look great and the vegetation has really taken off. The volunteers were invaluable when it came to planting! Don't want to miss another event? [Sign up](#) to get the latest information from the Wandle Trust . The River Rehab team have been busy learning all about how the river works and have even had a chance with the EM2 flume. You'll be able to follow the progress via the Wandle Trust [blog](#). You can still join the team - email [volunteers@wandletrust.org](mailto:volunteers@wandletrust.org)

**Invasive Species Project:** Alan Martin has started in the Wandle Valley and has already received a refresher in his pesticides training along with other Living Wandle colleagues. This is so he can tackle some of the many invasives along the Wandle. This project aims to train volunteers to record and map invasive species as well as learning the skills to help control and eradicate them. Contact the [volunteers@wandletrust.org](mailto:volunteers@wandletrust.org) to register your interest.

**River Education:** The project officer David Gill has been appointed and starts this month. He will be creating classroom activities which can be taught by the river, and will be looking to create a river creature rearing project for the classroom, based on the successful Trout in the Classroom programme. Watch this space!

**Wandle Gateways:** Have you noticed some changes in and around Poulter Park? The [Big Green Fund](#) project will be finished this summer. This project does really show the power of partnership to develop the Wandle Valley Regional Park. As part of the project the National Trust site at Watermeads has had access improvements and will be open to the public from the 16th May 8am – 4pm. The weekend of **16th-17th** has a whole host of events to celebrate the Wandle. [Spencer Road](#) Wetlands will be open on Saturday 16th from 11am-5pm with guided nature walks at 12, 2 & 4pm For information call 07837 576 786 . CTC are running a beginners cycle on the 16th setting off from the Pavillion Café in Beddington Park (SM67NN), cycling to spencer road Wetlands and then on to Watermeads and back (return by 5pm) call 02085403358. There will be a nature walk on Sunday 17th May at 2pm from the London Road entrance For event information call 0208 545 6850.

**Morden Hall Park Wetlands:** The National Trust have new plans for the wetlands area in the park. The National Trust had a successful speed volunteering session in the Wetlands at Morden Hall park on the 22nd February, laying hedges. There will be another session on the 28th June, pulling out invasive species. The National Trust are looking for **Wednesday Wetlands volunteers** contact [Clare Lanes](#) for more information.

**Industrial Heritage: Module 1—Documenting the changes at Merton Priory** Groundwork London are looking for Multimedia Research volunteers. The volunteers will record the key stages of the improvements at Merton Priory Chapter House, which start in October. No experience is necessary, there will be training on cameras, oral history interviews and recording equipment. Contact [Nicola.judd@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Nicola.judd@groundwork.org.uk) or visit [www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/london/blogs/heritagevolunteer](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/london/blogs/heritagevolunteer) **Deadline 26th May 2015**

**Module 2—**The Building Exploratory's Wandle Treasures volunteers have been exploring the heritage of the Wandle for the past five months. They have recorded more than 50 treasures to date and these will be made available online through the Living Wandle Archive. Artist Stephanie Theobald is hand drawing a beautiful treasures map, this will be unveiled at a launch in early June 2015. See the latest [blog](#) to see if you recognise any of the treasures!

## Dates for the Diary—Events along the Wandle

**23rd May—** Living Wandle & Lost Wandle Treasures - Wandsworth Town Library 11:30am part of the [Wandsworth Heritage Week](#)

**30th May—** Morden Hall Park [Bio-Blitz](#), launch of Wandle Watchers wildlife spotting, learn about nature and record plants and animals 10am-4pm

**6-7th June—**[Merton Priory Chapter House](#) open weekend—celebrating 800th Birthday of the Magna Carta 10am—5pm

**14th June —**Wandle Trust River [Clean-up](#) 10:30am—4pm, Sutton tbc

**22nd June—** Lost Wandle Treasures talk , part of the [Croydon Heritage week](#) — Ashburton Library, Croydon 11am

**28th June —**Heritage Walk, Wandle Wander 2pm, Wandle Park Croydon

**28th June —** National Trust Speed Volunteering—invasive pulling @ Morden Hall Park

**12th July —** Wandle Trust River [Clean-up](#) 10:30am—4pm, Sutton tbc

**25th– 26th July —** [Merton Priory Chapter House](#) Open Weekend 10am—5pm

The [Wandle Industrial Museum](#) is open every Wednesday (1-4pm) & Sunday (2-5pm)

May 2015

## LIKE LOCAL HISTORY?

Then create it - by volunteering as a Multimedia Researcher!

We are looking for enthusiastic people who want to gain new skills in media, community or heritage work. You will record key stages of the improvements at Merton Priory Chapter House and conduct oral history interviews to contribute to a final film.

- Learn how to use camera and recording equipment
- Take part in interview training
- Conduct interviews with people associated with the Chapter House
- Contribute to a film about the history of the Chapter House
- Gain enjoyable work experience on a useful and really interesting project

To apply or find out more, contact Nicola Judd  
E: nicola.judd@groundwork.org.uk  
T: 07913 604 380  
or visit [www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/london/blogs/heritagevolunteer](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/london/blogs/heritagevolunteer)

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 26th May 2015**

**NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**



Alan Martin – The Invasives Officer

The Wandle Trust EM2 flume at the Merton Discovery Day



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Partnership Scheme' on [Facebook](#)

<http://www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk/Projects/Living-Wandle>



Twitter [@livingwandle](#)

## Living Wandle Landscape Partnership



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## Volunteering Opportunities:

**Wandle Watchers:** On the 30th May a Wandle Watchers **WILDLIFE reporting** online form will be launched at the Morden Hall Park [Bio-Blitz](#). It is a chance for everyone (you do not have to be an expert) to record information about the plants and wildlife in the Wandle Valley. You will be able to record whenever and wherever you are along the Wandle. Keep an eye out for the online form link and get set to record all your favourite species!



**Industrial Heritage Recording—Merton Priory:** Multimedia Researchers wanted, record the key stages of the improvement at Merton Priory Chapter House. Learn how to use a camera and recording equipment, receive interview training and learn how to edit a film. No previous experience necessary, Contact [Nicola.judd@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Nicola.judd@groundwork.org.uk) 07913604360

**Photo competition:** We will be inviting everyone to enter the **Wandle Valley Photographic Competition**, to celebrate the Wandle Valley Forum's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Living Wandle Partnership's programme of projects and the launch of the new Wandle Valley Regional Park website very soon. Keep a look out for more details or contact [Living Wandle](#) to get the details as soon as they are released.

**Social Landlords:** Do you live in a **vibrant Wandle Estate**? Want to represent your community and encourage your neighbours to get more out of the River Wandle? The Wandle Estates Project will be delivering a variety of river talks, walks and other river themed activities to help communities explore and enjoy the River Wandle. If you have a meeting place, community space or green space and would like the [London Wildlife Trust](#) to host a talk with your community, contact [Jane Clarke](#) on 07837 576786

**Merton Priory:** Planning permission has been **approved** 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 next be open on the 6-7th June 10am—5pm to celebrate the 800th birthday of the Magna Carta.**

**Wandle Piscators:** Fishing will commence in **June** after the close season. There will also be open events this summer, to get involved contact [livingwandle@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:livingwandle@wandsworth.gov.uk) There are currently 12 juniors in the angling club. The Piscators will run 3 courses of 7 fishing sessions for 24 pupils at Wandle Valley School. Participants will receive AQA qualifications.

**Wandle Flowing Through Time:** This project is now complete and with the help of community groups, school children and volunteers there is a beautiful [memories book](#) available. It can be purchased for £15 via the [Living Wandle](#) team, or you can get a **FREE PDF** version.

**River Guardians:** 4 Living Wandle pollution clean ups have been held. Some dedicated volunteers are now trained to supervise cleaning the river! The next clean up will be focussing on **pollution in the rain** on **14th June** in Sutton (location tbc)

**Ravensbury Main Channel:** Flood modelling has been carried out. Contractors will carry out works in late summer. There will be some river **planting opportunities** once the physical works have finished.

### Team Wandle Volunteering Opportunities

Do you want to make a difference in Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton or Croydon? Would you like to **volunteer in a one-off way**— [Team Wandle](#) is for you! Volunteering across all four boroughs: Creative, Active, Sociable, Resourceful and Green opportunities!

### Waddon Ponds:

Restoration works are due to start on the final pond in Autumn 2015. There will be more consultation with park users in 2016. Check our [webpages](#) for more information.

**Discovering the Source of the Wandle:** There is 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.

## Coming Up.....

**Reflecting the Wandle:** We are pleased to announce that this Groundwork London project is complete. The brilliant 'Vandalis' Film has been produced and was made possible with a staggering **610.5 volunteer hours**. There have been 8 community showings so far and its free for others to use! Contact [Living Wandle](#) to borrow the DVD.

### 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 and their connection to the River Wandle.

For further information about the film please email:

[livingwandle@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:livingwandle@wandsworth.gov.uk)

