

WANDLE WATCHERS

May 2016

Project News:

Wandle Watchers: There is no better time to get out spotting wildlife and plants in your local area. Enter your spots on the easy [online form](#) and help us build up a picture of what species we share the Wandle Valley with. We are excited to announce the launch of the **Wandle Watchers Brownie Challenge Badge**, giving young Brownies the chance to learn about the **Wildlife of the Wandle**. To get your Brownies involved contact Livingwandle@wandsworth.gov.uk

Gateways: Have you noticed anything new around **Poulter Park**? The [Wandle Valley Regional Park](#) Branding has been Installed in various locations, it's been worth the wait, go and take a look for yourselves!

Catchment Plan - The Wandle Trust's work on the Carshalton arm of the Wandle won the Urban Category for the 2016 UK River Prize. The rehabilitated Wandle (Carshalton) waterbody was once overwide, polluted, disconnected and impounded. The restoration carried out is an excellent example of what is possible in an urban environment. The Wandle trust have made a [video](#) which is a lovely insight into all those organisations and volunteers involved.

Wandle Piscators: The Piscators are running guided walks for all ages along the Wandle, showing the best places to fish and explaining what you might catch (See dates for the diary). There is an **open day** at [Cannon Hill Pond](#) for Juniors on the 18th June and a **Juniors open day** on the Wandle on the [24th September](#) contact wyp@wandlepiscators.net for more information.

Get Active Wandle: Get Active Wandle Valley (A Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust Project) is a partnership initiative targeting deprived communities in the Wandle Valley in the London Boroughs of Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton & Croydon. Focusing on 'Fit Families' & 'Forever Fit', (a programme for the over 50s), the project will encourage people to be active and enjoy using the outside spaces throughout the regional park. For More information visit the Wandle Valley [webpages](#).

Evaluation: Thanks to all those who took the time to answer the Mid-Term evaluation questionnaire. We asked for '3 words which sum up the LW Scheme for you', below you can see the responses you gave.



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www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Dates for the Diary—Events along the Wandle

- 28th May - Fish walk, Ravensbury Park to Merton Abbey Mills with [Wandle Piscators](#) 10am- 12pm
 - 28th May - Merton Discovery Day @ Morden Library 12pm - 4:30pm
 - 5th June - [National Trust](#) Bio Blitz @ Morden Hall Park 11am- 4pm
 - 11th June - [St Helier](#) Festival @ Green space near David Weir leisure centre 12-5pm
 - 11th June - Wandle Park Environmental Fair @ [Wandle Park Croydon](#) 11am - 4pm
 - 12th June - [Wandle Trust](#) Clean-up, Location TBC 11am - 3pm
 - 21st June - Living Wandle talk @ [Croydon Central Library](#) 11am
 - 17th July - [Morden Fun Day](#) @ Morden Park 10am - 5pm
 - 10th July - [Wandle Trust](#) Clean-up, Location TBC 11am - 3pm
 - 14th August - [Wandle Trust](#) Clean-up, Location TBC 11am - 3pm
- For more events check out the [Community Events & Activity leaflet](#)

Volunteering Opportunities:

Wandle Watchers: A chance for **everyone** (you do not have to be an expert) to tell us about the **plants and wildlife** in the Wandle Valley. Record **whenever and wherever** you are along the Wandle. Keep an eye out for wildlife and report it on the [online form](#). **Free Identification training** is available to help improve your ID skills.

River Clean ups: The Wandle Trust are always welcoming new volunteers to their **monthly clean ups**, to make sure you never miss another event, email cleanups@wandletrust.org

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

Volunteer Celebration: Have you volunteered on a Living Wandle Project? We are inviting all **Living Wandle Volunteers** to a celebration evening **7th June** celebrating all your hard work. RSVP essential livingwandle@wandsworth.gov.uk



Running any activities in **September** between 10th - 25th? [Add it](#) to the **WANDLE FORTNIGHT** programme of events

Wandle Flowing Through Time: The **audio clips** are available through [Sound Cloud](#), and on the **WANDLE LIBRARY**. Take a listen and hear about people's experiences with the River Wandle. The lovely [memories book](#) can be purchased for £15 via the [Living Wandle](#) team, or you can get a **FREE PDF** version.

VANDALIS

Buy a [copy](#) of the film (for £5) or **borrow** it for free from the Living Wandle team. The film is a touching story of people's lives and their connections with the River Wandle.

To Purchase your copy, visit:
www.colourhousetheatre.co.uk
Or phone 02085425511



Living Wandle Estates: The [London Wildlife Trust](#) project finishes in June 2016. So far the project has engaged over 483 residents across Merton and Sutton. Jane Clarke has run Wildlife walks, talks, identification training, fun crafting activities and quizzes for residents.



Module 1-Documenting the changes at Merton Priory Groundwork London volunteers will be working with [Merton Priory Trust](#) to document changes made to the Chapter House in Summer 2016. [Read](#) about the project from our volunteer **Ameachi's** perspective.

Coming Up....

Ravensbury Main Channel:

Re-naturalisation of the main channel will take place in **September 2016**. Public planting will take place once the physical works are complete.

Waddon Ponds: The new vegetation is growing well and attracting This will attract a wide variety of wildlife. Information boards about the [ponds](#) and the wildlife will be installed in 2016.

River Guardians: There are only 3 more Living Wandle clean ups in 2016! Check the Dates for the next clean up. Check out the **POLLUTION leaflet**, giving tips on how to reduce pollution and report it.

River Education: Project Kingfisher is well underway! This project is already **connecting schools with the Wandle** and its wildlife. Your school can still create a **Tyre pond** for the playground. Contact education@wandletrust.org to find out more!



Merton Priory: Works on the [historic site](#) will start in **Summer 2016**, installing facilities and a large glass wall to make the site more welcoming for visitors.

Industrial Heritage: The Wandle Treasures **crowd funding project** has launched! Check out the [Video](#) to find out more. Help us share this beautiful illustrated map of historic treasures with communities along the River Wandle in London.



Discovering the Source of the Wandle: In 2016 the Wandle Trust will be looking for volunteers to help investigate the source of the Wandle. [Sign up](#) to make sure you don't miss the chance to get involved!

Invasive Species Project: The volunteers have carried out a second mapping session, recording the invasive species up and down the Wandle. The [Wandle Trust](#) with the help of volunteers will be tackling the species systematically. [Sign up](#) to avoid missing a **balsam bash** or **pennywort pulling** session.

