

WANDLE WATCHERS

November 2015

Project News:

Waddon Ponds: The final pond is **complete!** The banks of the **small pond** have been softened and vegetation rolls installed. These are currently protected by mesh to prevent wildfowl from grazing, but once established this will be removed. You might have spotted more vegetation rolls in the large pond too! The soft edges along with more vegetation should welcome more wildlife to Waddon Ponds.

Morden Hall Park Wetlands: The wonderful wetlands are being refreshed, hedges are being laid and scrub cleared. A 200m length of boardwalk with a dipping platform will be created in August-September 2016, the river banks will be restored and new bridges installed. There is a National Trust (NT) **speed volunteering** session on **21st November**. The NT are also looking for **Wednesday Wetlands volunteers** contact [Clare Lanes](#) for details.

Invasive Species Project: The volunteers have been busy **recording and mapping** the invasives up and down the Wandle. Once mapped, the Wandle Trust with the help of volunteers will be tackling the species systematically. Alan has managed to treat all the known sites with **Giant Hogweed** along the river, the other non-native species need to watch out!

Industrial Heritage: Module 2—The hunt for the lost treasures of the Wandle is now over. The Building Exploratory and dedicated volunteers have recorded more than **50** treasures and **32** have been uploaded onto the Living Wandle Digital Archive (due to be launched 10th December). It is hoped the hand drawn map will go on a roadshow around the Wandle Valley for everyone to see. Check out the **final blog** to see where the treasures are hidden along the Wandle!

Living Wandle Estates: Is your estate within 2km of the River Wandle, would you like us to organise some **free activities** for residents of any age? There's lots of choice on offer, a **wildlife walk, quiz, film, arts and crafts or river trip** - why not try something new? If you would like the [London Wildlife Trust](#) to organise this for your resident association or community please contact [Jane Clarke](#) on 07837 576786

River Education: Project Kingfisher has launched! This project aims to **connect schools with their local river** and its wildlife. Schools can have the Wandle in the classroom through: **Tyre ponds** in playgrounds, **Shrimps** in schools, **Tadpoles** in tanks and **Sticklebacks** in schools. Want to get your school involved? Contact david.gill@wandletrust.org to find out more!

Wandle Flowing Through Time: The oral histories and transcripts created as part of this project will shortly be available on the Living Wandle Digital Archive. The **audio clips** are available through [Sound Cloud](#), take a listen and hear about peoples' interactions 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.

WANDLE SEPTEMBER was a fantastic month of exciting events up and down the River Wandle and throughout the valley, with **65** fabulous events included in our programme. Check out the **fabulous facts and figures** from the month on our [celebration page](#).

Dates for the Diary—Events along the Wandle

8th November - Wandle Trust River [Clean-up](#) @ Plough Lane, Merton 11- 3pm

17th November - Free Merton Abbey Mills - Historic Site Reborn [Talk](#) @ West Barnes Library 1030 - 12noon

21st November - [Speed Volunteering](#) @ Morden Hall Park 10 - 3pm hedge laying and scrub clearance

22nd November - Ravensbury Park vegetation management work day, meet @ Central bridge 10 - 1pm

6th December - [Holly Wreath](#) Making @ Wandle Park café (Croydon) 1- 3pm

10th December Wandle Valley Regional Park AGM - Open to all! Includes guest speakers and prize giving for the winners of the Wandle Valley Regional Park photographic competition. Registration details will be released through Eventbrite shortly. The Pavillion, BedZed (SM6 7DF) 6 - 930pm, main celebratory event from 7pm.

13th December - Wandle Trust River [Clean-up](#) @ Wandsworth, location TBC 11- 3pm

For more events check out the [Community Events & Activity leaflet](#)



Re-naturalising the banks at Waddon Ponds



The Wandle September relay team at the half-way point



Look out for Project Kingfisher in your school

Keep up to date



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www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Living Wandle
Landscape Partnership



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Volunteering Opportunities:



Wandle Watchers: This is a chance for **everyone** (you do not have to be an expert) to tell us about the **plants and wildlife** 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



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

River Rehab: Fancy learning about **fish habitat** in the Wandle? In the new year the Wandle Trust will be looking for volunteers to take part in a new method of **identifying and mapping** fish habitat.

Contact volunteers@wandletrust.org



Wandle Gateways:

Keep a look out for the Wandle Valley Regional Park branding popping up in the Valley.



Wandle Valley Regional Park & Living Wandle Webpages

The new and improved web pages will be launched on **10th December**, with information, project news, Wandle Valley news and events feeds as well as the Living Wandle Digital Archive!

www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Merton Priory: Works on the historic site will commence in **Spring 2016**, installing facilities and a large glass wall to open up the site. Keep a look out for changes when walking past.

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 Spring 2016. [Read](#) about the project from the view of Suzanne, one of the volunteers taking part.

Catchment Plan: The River Rehab team have been busy discussing their restoration proposals with the Environment Agency. You can follow the progress via the Wandle Trust [blog](#). In early 2016 the Wandle Trust will be looking for people to carry out **Fish Habitat Surveys**, a new technique. Training will be available to volunteers, for more information contact volunteers@wandletrust.org

Coming Up.....

Wandle Watchers :



We need you to Record your wildlife spots online using our [quick form!](#) Record anything from a moorhen to a little egret!

Wandle Piscators:

The youth (12-18 yrs.) section of the Piscators has recruited 26 young anglers. Fancy joining in?

Get in touch

wyp@wandlepiscators.net

River Guardians: 7 Living Wandle clean ups have been held, the next clean up will be on **8th November** at **Plough Lane, Merton. Coming soon**—pollution prevention leaflet!

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.

Discovering the Source 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!

VANDALIS

Buy a [copy](#) of the film (for £5) or **borrow** it for free from the LWLP 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

