



BEACON NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 12

DECEMBER 2016

BEACON has been very busy since the last newsletter in July, and we have new project hosts too! Things are now slowly wrapping up for the Christmas and New Year break, but keep your eyes peeled for volunteer training opportunities coming up in January. So grab a cuppa and a mince pie, and catch-up with the latest BEACON news.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

This month four more volunteers and staff from partner organisations have received NPTC accredited training to be able to treat invasive species near water with herbicides. This training, funded by BEACON and other partner organisations, means that we can expand the invasive species populations currently being treated by herbicides, whilst being able to thoroughly monitor the success of areas treated in previous years. Control work using herbicides is carried out from March to October, and permits from the Environment Agency must be sought when applying any herbicides in or near water.



BIRKIN BROOK

Students from the University of Manchester undertook live research projects this spring and summer on Birkin Brook; a waterbody which is classified by the Water Framework Directive as in poor/bad ecological condition. Work was done to take samples of the water at various points along the brook for chemical analysis, and samples of river invertebrates were also gathered. This work was done in conjunction with Birkin Fly Fishers, and with support from Tatton Estates. The results show that Birkin Brook is capable of supporting wildlife associated with good water quality, but that more work needs to be done to determine why these invertebrates and fish are only found in the Brook in low numbers.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

As work done by our volunteers, local anglers, the Environment Agency and the University of Manchester shows, you can never have too much information about the state of your local rivers and brooks. We hope to get more information by training volunteers to adopt a small stretch of river and take regular water samples, which can be analysed on the spot and the information recorded. A training day for this will be held on

Wednesday 25th January 2017 10am— 3pm at Marthall Hall WA16 7SB

To book a place please contact BEACON on the details overleaf.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the partner organisations and volunteers that have been involved with BEACON this year, and helped keep the project going and keep it growing. We look forward starting work on some exciting new water quality projects in the New Year, which will really work off those Christmas dinners! Thank you all!!





NEW HOSTS

The last newsletter mentioned that BEACON was working hard to move hosts from the National Trust to the Healthy Rivers Trust, and we are now pleased to say this has been done! Healthy Rivers Trust officially become the hosts for the BEACON project on November 1st. BEACON will work exactly as it did before with these new hosts, but will gain additional benefit from becoming part of the Rivers Trust movement.

BEACON will also form the nucleus of the newly established Cheshire Rivers Trust, that has been set up by Healthy Rivers Trust, and we look to encourage more organisations to join Cheshire Rivers Trust in the future.

It is also important to say a huge thank you so much to the National Trust at Quarry Bank who have provided a great deal of support and backing for the BEACON project, and we look forward to properly starting work with our new hosts in the new year.



WATER QUALITY PROJECT

The BEACON Project has slowly been widening its focus over the last two years to look at water quality, as this impacts not only the wildlife that makes our local rivers and brooks their home, but also people who use the river for quiet recreation and enjoyment. So, BEACON is putting together projects that we hope will attract funding and allow us to work with landowners and farmers to address local water quality issues. This means thinking about septic tanks, carrying out more water quality surveys and undertaking river bank works, in-river works or habitat creation/restoration. Watch this space for more details of water quality projects happening near you in 2017 and how you can get involved!

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

If you have registered as a BEACON volunteer in the past you **need** to renew your registration with our new hosts, Healthy Rivers Trust. This is to ensure you are covered by insurance for any work you might undertake as a volunteer. Please contact BEACON on the details below to re-register.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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