



BEACON NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 15

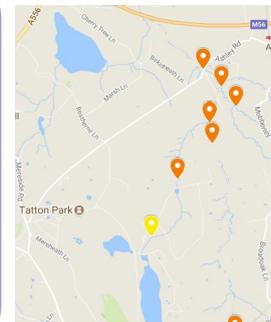
DECEMBER 2017



In this, the 15th BEACON newsletter, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and hope that the festive period is a peaceful time for you all. Read on to find out what has been going on in the Bollin Catchment over the winter months. There is funding news, invasive species information, and keep an eye out for upcoming free training and events in the New Year.

RIVER GUARDIANS

BEACON has been running a very successful River Guardian Programme for almost 12 months now, and over that time has trained 35 volunteers to be able to do simple water quality tests from local waterbodies. They test for phosphates, nitrates, and sometimes ammonia, and also provide information about how high the river is, if it looks murky and the recent weather. All of this gives us a picture of the water quality in the Bollin Catchment as a whole, and places where there might be something going wrong and we can work to put it right. The results that the River Guardians have collected can be viewed on a map on our website [here](#). To become a River Guardian, training details are overleaf.



CO-OP LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND



We have successfully raised over £900 through the Co-op Local Community Fund. As part of this fund, Co-op members chose a cause to support and money was automatically raised every time they shopped with the Co-op. Thank you so much to everyone that took part in this! The money raised will buy our River Guardians more test kits, and allow us to do more work to analyse the data that's coming in. Sal, our Project Officer, had a stand at the Co-op Food Store in Mobberley, and thanked all Co-op Members that had contributed.

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU EVENT

A fun event will be held to thank all our volunteers who work so hard to make the BEACON project a success. It gives us a chance to round-up the year, and volunteers talk of their own experiences volunteering with BEACON. The **Thank You Event** will be held on:

Thursday 18th January 2018

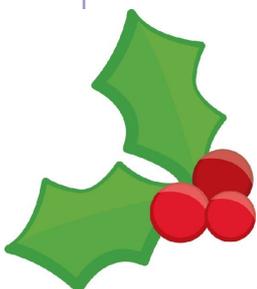
6pm—8pm

Wilmslow Parish Hall, SK9 4AA

Please contact us on the details overleaf to book a place.

GAP PROJECT

Are you aged 11 – 24 and live in Wythenshawe? The Green Academies Project run by the National Trust is an amazing chance to get outdoors and make a difference to your local green spaces. It's also a great way to gain the skills and experience that will help you get where you want to be. BEACON and its partners have been working closely with the GAP project to develop opportunities to get involved in habitat restoration and invasive species control. For more information please visit the website [here](#).



TESCO BAGS OF HELP

BEACON has been given £4,000, the top award, from Tesco stores, through their 'Bags of Help' scheme. 'Love Your River Bollin', is our project that aims to highlight the impact people have on the water environment in a positive way to inspire people to change their behaviour. Thank you to everyone that put their blue token in the 'Love Your River Bollin', box, and we look forward to starting on this project in the New Year.

CALL OF NATURE



The Call of Nature Project has really taken off since September, with lots of people engaged and becoming interested in how to look after their sewage treatment system at home, and what can be put down the drains. The focus area for this project is Marthall, Ollerton and Chelford Parishes, and parts of Mobberley, as there are a great number of homes here that rely on septic tanks. Our Project Officer has been into local schools and talked to pupils about saving water and what happens to the water once it goes down the plug hole. The children all enjoyed testing various water samples for nitrates and phosphates, and finding out how high levels of these chemicals from faulty septic tanks can affect wildlife. BEACON has also been at Chelford Christmas Fair talking to local people about their sewage treatment systems, and there has been information published in local parish newsletters. If you have any questions about a septic tank at your home, or need more information, please contact us on the details below. You can also visit our [web-site](#).

RIVER GUARDIAN TRAINING

Due to the huge popularity of the last session, another FREE workshop is being held to train River Guardians. These volunteers test water samples from rivers and streams local to them, and record results sent to us for analysis. The **River Guardian** training will be held on:

Tuesday 16th January 2018
10am—3pm
Marthall Hall, Sandlebridge Lane WA16 7SB

Lunch, light refreshments and all kit will be provided.
Please book early to avoid disappointment using the details below.



BLUE PLANET

The BBC programme Blue Planet has introduced viewers to a colourful underwater world, that seems exotic and far away. However, the coral reefs and coastline habitat here in the UK is just as vibrant, fragile and colourful as their tropical counterparts. Invasive species are however causing problems for this delicate habitat. Read more [here](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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