

# WANDLE WATCHERS



LOTTERY FUNDED

## Project News:

February 2016

**Evaluation:** The **Independent Evaluators**, Richard and Marija are conducting a mid-term evaluation of the scheme to find out how successful it has been to date and to help the partnership plan for the final 2 years of the Scheme. It will be helpful if you can **complete the on-line questionnaire**.

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LWEvalP](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LWEvalP)

Let them have **your** views about the **strengths or weaknesses** of the scheme, any **suggestions** you may have, and what you think the long term **benefits** may be for the area's natural and cultural heritage, its people and communities, and you personally.

**Morden Hall Park Wetlands:** The wonderful wetlands have seen some changes, hedges have been laid by an army of volunteers and scrub cleared. A 200m length of boardwalk with a dipping platform will be constructed from September 2016, the river banks will be restored and new bridges installed. The next National Trust (NT) **speed volunteering** session is on **28th February**. The NT are also looking for **Wednesday Wetlands volunteers** contact [Clare Lanes](mailto:Clare.Lanes@nt.org.uk) for details.

**Living Wandle Estates:** [London Wildlife Trust](http://www.londonwildlifetrust.org.uk) arranged a workshop with social landlords in the Wandle Valley on the 27th January, at the Tooting and Mitcham Football Club. The staff had a go at heritage and nature activities, to have a taste of what their residents can experience. There's lots of choice on offer, **wildlife walks, quizzes, film showings, arts and crafts (such as block printing), river trips or joint activities such as fishing**. New relationships were formed and the wonders of the Wandle were revealed. Get your community and neighbours involved in these funded activities. Why not contact your own social landlord or [Jane Clarke](mailto:Jane.Clarke@wandletrust.org) directly on 07837 576786 to book some activities.

**River Education: Project Kingfisher is well underway!** This project aims to **connect schools with the Wandle** and its wildlife. [Creatures in the Classroom](http://www.creaturesintheclassroom.org.uk) is closed for 2016, but your school could still receive a **Tyre pond** for the playground. Contact [education@wandletrust.org](mailto:education@wandletrust.org) to find out more!

**Wandle Piscators:** The youth angling (12-18 yrs) section of the Piscators has recruited 26 young anglers. The Piscators are looking to launch a series of guided walks for juniors in May. There will be **after school lessons** for children & parents in the summer, contact [wyp@wandlepiscators.net](mailto:wyp@wandlepiscators.net) to learn more.

**River Guardians:** 10 Living Wandle clean ups have been held and the Wandle Trust are running more throughout 2016. Check out the new **POLLUTION leaflet**, giving tips on how to reduce pollution and report it.

**Wandle Watchers:** Spring is just around the corner, there is no better time to get out and about **spotting the wildlife and plants** in your local area. We are looking to the public to record their wildlife spots in the Wandle Valley, you don't need to be an expert! Pop your spots on the easy [online form](http://www.livingwandle.org.uk) and help us build up a picture of what species we share the Wandle Valley with. **6 year old Morgan Thomas** was the youngest recorder of 2015, his spots included a Heron and a Robin.



Volunteers Hedge Laying in Morden Hall Park



Social Landlord staff enjoying a Wandle Treasures Quiz at the workshop, something all residents can access



Pollution Prevention Leaflet

### Dates for the Diary—Events along the Wandle

- 14th February** - Valentines Wandle Trust [Clean-up](#) @ Poulter Park 11- 3pm
- 18th February** - Wandle Piscators [Fly Tying](#) Evening @ William Morris Pub 7:30pm
- 28th February** - [Speed Volunteering](#) @ Morden Hall Park hedge laying 10 - 3pm
- 13th March** - [Speed Volunteering](#) @ Watermeads 10 - 3pm
- 13th March** - Wandle Trust [Clean-up](#) 11 - 3pm location TBC
- 19th - 20th March** - [Merton Priory](#) Chapter House Open days, explore 11 - 5pm
- 20th March** - [Wandle Park](#) (Croydon) River & Pond Conservation day 10 - 3pm
- 26th March** - [Wandle Park](#) Ghost Walk, Legends & Myths down the Wandle 7:30pm
- 31st March** - Wandle Piscators [Fly Tying](#) Evening @William Morris Pub 7:30pm
- 10th April** - Wandle Trust [Clean-up](#) 11 - 3pm location TBC

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

### Keep up to date



LIKE [Living Wandle](#)



@LivingWandle



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[www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk](http://www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk)

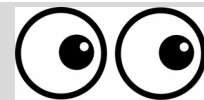
Living Wandle  
Landscape Partnership

working in the...



Wandle Valley

## Volunteering Opportunities:



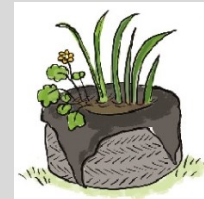
**Wandle Watchers:** A chance for **everyone** (you do not have to be an expert) to tell us about the **plants and wildlife** in the Wandle Valley. You can record **whenever and wherever** you are along the Wandle. Keep an eye out for wildlife and report it on the [online form](#). Free Identification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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:cleanups@wandletrust.org)

**Education:** The Wandle Trust are looking for **education volunteers** to help bring the Wandle to the classroom and bring schools to the rivers edge - [education@wandletrust.org](mailto:education@wandletrust.org)



**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](http://www.colourhousetheatre.co.uk)

Or phone 02085425511



### Invasive Species Project:

The volunteers have mapped and recorded 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.

**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 Suzanne's view, one of the volunteers taking part.

## Coming Up....

### Ravensbury Main Channel:

Re-naturalising the main channel will take place in **Summer 2016**. Public planting will take place once the physical works are complete.

**Waddon Ponds:** Works to the final pond are complete and the vegetation is growing well. This will attract a wider variety of wildlife. Information boards about the [ponds](#) and the wildlife will be installed in 2016.

**Catchment Plan:** The River Rehab volunteer team are taking forward 2 designs for selection in February. Once the final restoration site is selected they will work towards delivering it in late 2016. More information can be found on the Wandle Trust [blog](#).



Volunteer site sketches

**Merton Priory:** Works on the [historic site](#) will start in **Spring 2016**, installing facilities and a large glass wall to open up the site. Keep a look out for changes when walking past. The Chapter House is open **19th & 20th March** for one last time.

**Industrial Heritage:** The hunt for [Wandle treasures](#) is over, but they are accessible online through the Wandle Library. The Building Exploratory are taking the map on a tour of the Wandle, it could be coming to a venue near you!  
[buildingexploratory.blogspot.co.uk/](http://buildingexploratory.blogspot.co.uk/)

**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!

### Wandle Gateways:

Keep a look out for the [Wandle Valley Regional Park](#) branding popping up in the Valley, Poulter Park and Colliers wood will be the first to receive it - see if you can locate the branding this spring!

