

Evenlode News 22 March 2016

The survey to decide the best format for occasional news from the Evenlode Catchment Partnership returned a vote of 55% for emails, 40% to use the Wild Oxfordshire bulletin and 5% Evenlode Facebook page (among all respondents). I will therefore use occasional emails for catchment news and send select items of wider interest to Clare to include in the fortnightly Bulletin. Very occasionally, when we have good pictures to accompany an item, I'll post on Facebook and include a link with the newsletter. I trust everyone will be happy with that!

Evenlode Catchment Partnership at Combe Mill Steam and Natural History Event

17th April (Sunday) Open 10am – 5pm

Combe Mill Sunday steam events attracts up to 300 people of mixed ages both local and further afield. This event also focuses on natural history and there will be hourly walks for visitors across the meadows. Jen is happy to lead the walk and cover all the H&S but would welcome experts to talk to visitors! **If you would like to speak on one of the walks please indicate on the attached form.** Several friends of the catchment have indicated they'd be willing to spend an hour or so helping but it would be good to have a bit of a rota so you don't all turn up at once...

The ECP will have a small gazebo and table / display boards. I'll be there all day and hope to be signing people up for the water blitz and giving info about our work. If you have info you'd like to display as part of the ECP let me know – also some occasional relief would be appreciated, along with help to lay out refugia on the meadows between 11 and 12 (when we can explain about base line surveys, flora and fauna etc). I'll have some P & N tests as well as dissolved Oxygen (BOD) freebies from La Mott if any of you water scientists want to run a session testing different water bodies???

If you'd like a separate table for your own natural history / local interest group please get in touch with Jen ASAP as there are some at the Mill which she can provide.

Jen Hurst Combe Mill volunteers jenhurst1@googlemail.com 07932 065742

25th April Thames Water-Blitz 2016

On 25th April and 3rd October 2016 Wild Oxfordshire and Earthwatch partner with Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, the Environment Agency and catchment partnerships to carry out a biannual census of ecosystem conditions throughout the Thames catchment.

This year, for the spring waterblitz, the nutrient kits are kindly being provided by Freshwater Habitats Trust as part of their Thames Water for Wildlife survey. Please contact Hannah at Freshwater Habitats Trust hworker@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk to order kits, stating that you wish to take part in the spring Thames Water-Blitz. Sign up on the Freshwater Watch website <https://www.freshwaterwatch.thewaterhub.org/signup> making sure you sign as a volunteer for the water-blitz. This enables you to view the training videos, enter your test information directly (using computer or phone app) and use the real-time mapping and analysis.

6th – 7th May Water Hackathon

Wild Oxfordshire are working with CEH, Earthwatch, Science Oxford and other partners to run a river quality 'hackathon' on 6-7th May, using currently available water and land management data from open/ public sources. If any groups of river users out there have pressing questions that could possibly be addressed through this sort of intensive and creative data-crunching exercise please send them to me in the first instance and I'll compile and send on to Anne."

Evenlode River Works

Both the Evenlode Catchment Partnership and Cotswolds Rivers Trust have successfully applied for funding to carry out enhancements along a (small stretch) of the River Evenlode. CRT from the Environment Agency and ECP from TOE2. Further details to be announced.

Flood risk management plans have been published

The first cycle Flood Risk Management Plans, developed jointly by Risk Management Authorities, have been published. These plans describe the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs; and they do so at a river basin and a catchment scale. The plans set out how Risk Management Authorities will work together, and with communities, to manage flood and coastal risk between 2015 and 2021. This includes measures and actions to manage the risk and improve resilience.

The plans are available on the GOV.UK website. You will be able to find flood risk management plans (FRMPs) for the Thames Basin (Cotswolds catchment covers the Evenlode) here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-risk-management-plans-frmps-2015-to-2021>

The flood risk management plan (FRMP) is split into 6 documents. These are:

- the summary which gives a high level overview of the FRMP
- part A includes the legislative background and information for the whole river basin district (RBD)
- part B includes detail about each catchment, the flood risk areas and other strategic areas
- part C includes the measures identified to manage flood risk across the RBD
- the strategic environmental assessment statement of particulars includes the potential impacts on people and the environment when implementing the measures in the FRMP
- the habitat regulations assessment details the potential impacts on designated European sites when implementing the measures in the FRMP