

IT'S SUMMER SO GET INVOLVED!

Welcome to the Summer 2016 Island Rivers Partnership newsletter. All the partners have been very busy this year, and there are lots of opportunities to help protect, improve, enjoy and celebrate the Isle of Wight watercourses.

WE URGENTLY NEED MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR TEAM OF BALSAM VOLUNTEERS

Himalayan Balsam is a very invasive non-native plant. At present we are pulling it up along Wroxall Stream and the Eastern Yar. We really do need more help 'out on the pull' on our weekly Tuesdays and Thursdays sessions. Are you able to come along? The next few sessions are as follows:

14th July—Wroxall Stream - Bobberstone Farm - meet at the farm (The track is found off of Lessland Lane G.R SZ551824), PO38 3AT—10 am

19th July - East Yar – Sandown Bridge Meadows - meet on Morton Brook Road off of Perowne Way, Sandown, PO36 9PZ - 9.30am

21st July – Wroxall Stream - Donkey Sanctuary - meet in car park 9.30 am

26th July – East Yar – Cycle track – Meet Alverstone Bridge – 9.30am

28th July – East Yar – Meet at Southern Water Sewage Works, East Yar Road, Sandown, PO36 9AX – 9.30am



If you come across the plant when walking in the countryside please **pull it up** before it seeds.

DO YOU LIVE IN NEWPORT?

Emergency Wardens are now being recruited to cover areas in Newport that are most likely to flood. They will act as local contacts, working in ward-based groups, giving guidance and assistance to their neighbours. They will receive free training in basic first aid and given guidance on how to operate safely, checking on vulnerable people in their neighbourhood in times of extreme weather. Please contact Newport Parish Council for more details... clerk@newportwight.org.uk (01983) 559119



DO YOU HAVE A SEPTIC TANK?

By being careful about the products that we use, and by managing our waste water systems well, we can reduce the damaging impact that Phosphorus can have on our wildlife and our countryside. We have now produced two leaflets, one about [phosphates](#) and one about [septic tanks](#) and updated the [Best Practice](#) Section of our website with loads of good advice.

ARE YOU A GOOD PHOTOGRAPHER?

The aim of our [gallery](#) is to collect together photos of the Island's Rivers. Not only are these gorgeous, but they are also a record of the current state of our rivers. They can be used to measure any changes that occur.

Whilst we happily add the photographs that we take to our gallery, we are especially grateful to anyone who can submit photos to it. If possible we ask our photographers to record grid reference (or geo-tag photos), direction, date and time etc. We are using Flickr to enable us to do this. We are very lucky that a group of talented people from the [Isle of Wight Photographic Society](#) are helping us with this project but all other photographers are welcome. If you feel you can help us please complete our [online form](#).

OTHER NEWS

IMPROVED ACCESS AT ST HELENS

Works to improve Gaggen Path, which provides access between St Helens village and The Duver, have been completed by the Isle of Wight Ramblers as part of the Down To The Coast suite of projects.

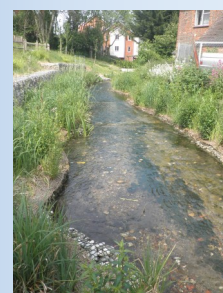
Regular users of this popular route will see a dramatic improvement in the quality of the surface thanks to works undertaken by RJ Cook and overseen by the National Trust and IW Ramblers. The project forms part of a wider programme of works that will see improvements to footpaths in the Yar Estuary.



RIVER ENHANCEMENTS IN CENTRAL NEWPORT

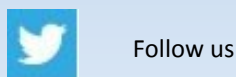


Partners in the **Newport Rivers Group**, in particular the **Environment Agency** have been working very hard with Barretts to ensure that Lukely Brook has been vastly improved since the development of the Dairy Crest site. Previous the river was culverted, but as you can see it has now been opened up and planted with lots of lovely native plants.



AIND FINALLY...

We continue to update our [website](#), there is lots of useful information there, and its all specific to the Island. So please have a browse.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON ANY ITEMS IN THIS NEWSLETTER CONTACT CAROL FLUX

ON 01983 201563

Island Rivers are hosted by Natural Enterprise.