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 @ Watermeads 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

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**Project News:**

**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

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 for details.

**Living Wandle Estates:** London Wildlife Trust 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 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 is closed for 2016, but your school could still receive a Tyre pond for the playground. Contact 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 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 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.
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.

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

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

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

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
Or phone 02085425511

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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/

Coming Up…….

Waddington: Work to the final pond is 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.

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.

Wandle Gateways: Keep a look out for the Wandle Valley Regional Park branding popping up in the Valley, Poulters Park and Colliers wood will be the first to receive it - see if you can locate the branding this spring!

Volunteer site sketches