2020 has undoubtedly been challenging for all involved in the River Idle Catchment Partnership. Despite this, some great work has been continuing in the background and we will be showcasing and celebrating this years’ successes in an online webinar on 15th December 10am-12noon. Please pop the date in your diary and look out for more details coming very soon!

**£25 million available to help farmers boost productivity**

£25 million has been made available in grants for productivity-boosting farming equipment in the third and final round of the government’s Countryside Productivity Small Grants (CPSG) scheme.

Under the scheme, farmers can apply for grants of between £3,000 and £12,000 to buy new and innovative equipment – from livestock monitoring cameras to precision farming technology – which helps businesses save time and money and improve productivity.

Last year, new items were added to the list of the equipment available that will help farmers to benefit the environment, such as equipment designed to help minimise soil compaction in fields, monitor ammonia levels in farm buildings, and increase machinery precision when applying slurry.

Farmers who have been successful in applying for grants in previous rounds of the scheme will also be able to apply for different pieces of equipment within this final round up to the scheme’s limit of £12,000 per farmer, meaning that they can streamline other elements of their business or start the move towards farming more sustainably.

Link to CPS Handbook: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-productivity-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-productivity-scheme)

Himalayan balsam control 2020

Latest news from Warsop Footpaths and Countryside Group

Warsop Himalayan Balsam Report 2020

During 2020 volunteers surveyed over 8km of waterways within the parish of Warsop and devoted over 50 volunteer hours to removing approximately 8,000 Himalayan balsam plants.

Our priorities remain
1. Eradicating Himalayan Balsam from Sookholme Brook and its tributaries
2. Preventing it from becoming established on the section of the River Meden flowing through the Hills & Holes SSSI
3. Managing the Himalayan Balsam on the riverbanks at Meden Vale to reduce the risk of it spreading downstream
4. Removing it from the wetlands of The Bottoms Local Nature reserve

We have made some progress with these priorities
1. No plants were found alongside Sookholme Brook.
2. Shire Brook was clear apart from a dozen plants in the reedbed upstream from the Longster Lane car park and four next to the car park.
3. Only a few plants were appeared in the area alongside Longster Lane that was discovered two years ago.
4. The reduction in the number of plants on the stretch of the River Meden upstream from Hammerwater Bridge has continued.
5. Only one patch alongside the River Meden through the Hills and Holes SSSI was removed. Only a single plant was found between Stone Bridge and the Mill Dam.
6. Overall the situation upstream from Burns Bridge is looking positive. However, downstream from the bridge, large patches of Himalayan balsam in the woodlands have the potential to cause problems further downstream. Only the section of The Bottoms LNR to the north of the river has been cleared of balsam. Elsewhere in this area only a strip has been cleared alongside much of the riverbanks to prevent seeds entering the river.
7. The number of plants on The Bottoms LNR wetlands behind the shop and the pub continues to be reduced.
8. The inaccessibility of some riverbanks downstream from Burns Bridge continues to cause problems, particularly where trees have been felled and abandoned near power lines.
9. There may be Himalayan balsam growing alongside the Ley Brook near Nettleworth but no plants have been found downstream from the Spin Kop fishing lakes so hopefully this will not prove cause problems downstream.
10. There continues to be a very small number of plants in the Warsop section of Peafield Plantation. This is probably spreading from the plantation that is not managed by Forestry England on the Clipstone side of the parish boundary where there are large patches of balsam.

The data

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Italic indicates an area not completely cleared
All figures rounded to 2 significant figures

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Himalayan balsam control 2020 cont.

News from around the County – Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Officer

During 2020, despite the restrictions imposed on the HB control project by Covid-19, we still managed to get out and about on the large majority of sites on which control has been undertaken in recent years. These sites include both section of main river and its tributaries but also isolated sites within catchments where populations of HB have been discovered as a result of the public submitting their records to support this project.

Below is a summary of the work undertaken in 2020 [in the Idle Catchment]. You will note that we have targeted catchments that are adjacent to one another to try to ensure that as we move through these catchments the chance of infestation from neighbouring catchments is reduced.

River Meden Catchment
Main River (from Skegby to Warsop ‘the Bottoms’) - 13,710m (13.7km)
Mansfield Woodhouse tributary (adjacent to fishing ponds) - 500m (0.5km)
Sookholme Brook - 1,380m (1.4km)
Shirebrook - 1,650m (1.6km)
Offline sites where HB control has taken place in 2020 - Hazel Gap

River Maun Catchment
Main River (from Sutton Parkway Station to Warren Farm, Clipstone) - 6,370m (6.4km)
Offline sites where HB control has taken place in 2020 - Linguard Engineering, Kings Mill reedbed, Spa Ponds, Intake Wood

County TOTAL = 43.9km of river/stream channel & at least 15 off line sites (this does not include sites where the balsam is within 200m of the river channel).
60 minutes of fishy tales with Trent Rivers Trust

TRT are soon to be celebrating World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) 2020 and would like your help to make their micro event on the 29th October “60 minutes of fishy tales with Trent Rivers Trust” a success. What would be a huge help is to do the following:

Try and take part in their “Twitter Storm” at 12.30pm on 29th October (this link to Twitter and Facebook will take you to a short video to explain how to take part in a Twitter Storm)

Promote the event to your network of people so we get good participation – with a Twitter storm it really is the more the merrier!

News from Forest Town Nature Conservation Group

A new book about Forest town has just been published by the Forest Town Heritage Group. The book, entitled 'A - Z of Forest Town History' was edited by Pauline Marples and Jenny Wright. From allotments to the Boundary stone and Carnivals, to the White Gates, the Youth Club, and Zygage Computers this book is overflowing with people, photos, facts and figures covering Forest Town's glorious history. The Forest Town Nature Conservation Group is there, along with Spa Ponds, and indeed Garibaldi Woods. For just £4 a copy can be yours, and as for that special offer: £10 will cover the cost of 3 copies! The 'A - Z of Forest Town History' would make a lovely Christmas gift for anyone with an interest in our village.

You can arrange for your copies to be posted to you, or we can arrange for you to collect them from one of a number of trusted stockists (e.g. Pauline, Shlomo, Phyllis - you get the idea)...Just let me know how many copies you would like...or send an email message to Pauline via: heritage.foresttown@ntlworld.com

Diary dates

- Saturday 31st October from 10am - Spa Ponds Work Session - transplanting trees from the area between Ponds 1 and 2, and clearing around the stream (wellies required for this bit).

- Wednesday 11th November - Spa Ponds Work Session with training from Andy Hollis - focussing on Pond Hill Wood (above Pond 1). Places are strictly limited, due to Covid, so please email spa.ponds@gmail.com to book your place.

- Saturday 14th November - Spa Ponds Work Session with training from Andy Hollis - focussing on Pond Hill Wood (above Pond 1). Places are strictly limited, due to Covid, so please email spa.ponds@gmail.com to book your place.
Watering the Garden

An online conference exploring the latest landscape led approaches to managing water in large scale developments and new communities

The title of this recent conference gives you a bit of a flavour of the topics up for debate and discussion. A range of speakers took us through the themes of urban water management, from large-scale inception to small-scale end-pipe solutions. It was really good to hear about the research being carried out on urban flood resilience and modelling surface water flooding responses to blue/green infrastructure (see http://www.urbanfloodresilience.ac.uk/documents/factsheet-citycat.pdf).

We also heard about some pretty impressive large-scale schemes, such as the development of a masterplan for the city of Shanghai and the closer to home design and development of the Ebbsfleet Garden City. All seven parks in the latter new development will include wetland infrastructure in addition to rain gardens, swales and other integrated water management features. The speakers were able to highlight how important it is to take water management seriously at the very outset, about requiring developments to make space for water, and through an example from the USA, how upstream thinking can add value to site-based initiatives. At the smallest scale, the idea of rainwater management systems was explored - rather than just harvesting this resource, it is possible to allow every household to contribute to recycling grey water, flood attenuation and slowing the flow by actively managing storage solutions.

One key thing that I took away with me was the positivity of the speakers - we already have the knowledge and enthusiasm across much of the urban planning and design sector to design amazing, resilient urban landscapes. There really is no excuse for inadequate planning policy, design and development that fails to integrate blue and green infrastructure at all scales.

Claire Sambridge – Catchment Host
Mansfield Local Plan Adopted

On Tuesday 8 September 2020, Mansfield District Council resolved to adopt the Mansfield District Local Plan 2013-2033 at its meeting of Full Council. The Local Plan replaces all the remaining saved policies of the 1998 Mansfield District Local Plan. The Mansfield District Local Plan 2013-2033 now forms part of the statutory development plan, which means that it has full weight in determining planning applications. Of particular note to catchment partners, you may wish to take a closer look at two of the climate change policies which relate directly to the water environment. It is good to see protection of rivers, sustainable drainage, measures to improve water quality and regulate water quantity given weight within the plan. The full plan can be found here, along with policy maps here.

Policy CC3

Sustainable drainage systems

1. All development proposals should, wherever possible, include measures to reduce and manage surface water through appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) so as to minimise and manage flooding, improve water quality, complement water efficiency, and enhance biodiversity, place shaping and amenity.

To be supported, proposals are required to satisfactorily demonstrate all of the following:

a. that sustainable drainage systems have been incorporated in the development design unless:

i. for major developments, a SuDS is inappropriate and surface water run-off can be alternatively managed in an appropriate manner; or

ii. for minor developments a SuDS is not viable or technically feasible and surface water run-off can be alternatively managed in an appropriate manner; and

b. that adequate arrangements have been made for the adoption, management and maintenance of any SuDS provided over the lifetime of the development; and

2. Proposals for retrofitting of sustainable drainage systems will be supported.
Mansfield Local Plan Adopted cont.

Policy CC4

River and waterbody corridors
1. Development proposals will be supported where they:
   a. lead to the de-culverting and naturalising of watercourses which improves the overall connectivity or wildlife;
   b. avoid the culverting of watercourses and not prejudicing future opportunities for de-culverting;
   c. provide or retain a minimum 8m natural or semi-natural habitat buffer to a watercourse, and include a long term landscape and ecological management plan for this buffer; and
   d. contribute to the creation and / or enhancement of green SuDS priority areas and low water flow areas.

2. Development proposals which would have a significant adverse impact on the water quality, functions and setting of any watercourse and its associated corridor will not be supported.

Achieving NET ZERO Farming’s 2040 goal

The NFU has set the ambitious goal of reaching net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the whole of agriculture in England and Wales by 2040. This is their contribution to the UK’s ambition of net zero by 2050. They do not have one single answer to this problem, instead have been looking at a range of measures that fall under three broad headings:

• Improving farming’s productive efficiency;
• Improving land management and changing land use to capture more carbon;
• Boosting renewable energy and the wider bioeconomy.

To find out more, read the full report here: [https://www.nfuonline.com/.../achieving-net-zero-farmings-2040-goal/](https://www.nfuonline.com/.../achieving-net-zero-farmings-2040-goal/).

Contacts

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