



Wandle Valley Forum NEWS UPDATE

Issue No.11

Nov 2014

News from the Wandle Valley : Beddington, Ravensbury Park, Wandsworth, Hackbridge, Mitcham, Colliers Wood, Poulter Park

WVRP Trust AGM progress and challenges

The business of Wandle Valley Trust's (WVRP) AGM chaired by **Nick Durston (Nat Trust)** took a few short minutes to confirm that much progress had been made and that it was still fully solvent but with the inevitable funding challenges ahead. This was followed by the **CEO Sue Morgan's** review on managing the park on minimal funding available and progress on delivering some of the bid award projects. The rest of the very well attended evening at the BedZed Pavillion was a series of highly informative talks on very relevant aspects of parks in general and ours in particular.

We heard from **Peter Wilkinson** (recent WVRP CEO) of the Progress in implementing the Big Green Fund award at **Poulter Park**, with work on the **Watermeads**, to be opened up for the first time in half a century, **Bennetts Hole**, **Spencer Rd Wetlands** boardwalk, the Wandle Trail, and several other improvements included. Photo p5.

Rebecca Watts of Living Wandle Partnership spoke about progress on delivering Heritage Lottery Fund projects inc. Waddon Ponds, the Gateways to Poulter Park, projects within the **Wandle Trust's** Catchment Plan and many outreach projects including the excellent amateur film 'Vandalis'.



Paul McGarry of **Future Merton** showed us the major townscape improvements in the pipeline for **Colliers Wood** which will help to make the notorious tombstone building less oppressive and the treatment of the river banks and the creation of a piazza helping to make the interface between Merton Abbey and Colliers Wood much more attractive when the Merton Priory Museum opens.

We heard from specialist speakers how the latest London Plan had been revised to focus more on Open Space (All London Green Grid) and welcomed any late input for the new edition and the increasing use of parks and the social importance of sustaining them on diminishing budgets.

We learnt about the obscurely entitled 'Shared Outcome Funding' and open space funding strategies including Park Improvement Districts (PIDs), Friends funding groups and the painful possibility of local resident funding amongst others. And we were surprised to hear how good large scale OS maps of London can cost £40k but the Ordnance Survey was launching a new free series of open spaces maps to help plan and improve our open spaces. **BSJB**

NETWORK NEWS - from Forum Members

Hackbridge & Beddington Corner Neighbourhood Planning Group

A revised Pocket Park funded proposal has been presented to the group which improves on an initial proposal. It will make Mile Road an entrance rather than simply an access point to the regional park. As such it complements the village regeneration programme which is now virtually complete and makes the scene much more welcoming while residents wait for new development to rise from the rubble of the Felnex industrial estate. Moves afoot to save **Culvers Lodge** may be supported by a move to have it listed as a local heritage building. The WVRP have expressed an interest in using the building. (Source website).

Felnex: local residents are concerned that the current economic troubles in the supermarket sector have caused Tesco to back out of the Felnex redevelopment. So far no one else has confirmed an interest although there is speculation that the budget supermarkets Lidl and Aldi may fill the gap.

Friends of Beddington Park

Sutton Council has been successful in its first round bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding of £3.6 million. The HLF would provide £250,000 to develop a full bid over an 18 month period. This could include items such as employing consultants and engineers to report on things like silt in the lake and access and parking. They would also engage with park users to find out what people want from the park and will be looking to the Friends group to help with that. **Source FoBP.**

Wandsworth Society

The Society having helped get two previous over dense schemes for the Ram Brewery rejected, have had to settle for the current scheme whose mass has been trimmed back following an inquiry. Its next concern is the proposed 26 floor tower next to Garratt Lane Burial Ground (also part of the regional park).

The Society has always made clear that it is not against tower blocks per se but the exact location and design of those for Wandsworth town centre should have been far more in keeping with the best elements of the townscape and conservation area. (See - Wandsworth town centre below).

Friends of Ravensbury Park.

WVForum Chair invited to attend a FoRP meeting to give a brief outline of the status of the Regional Park and the aims of the Wandle Valley Forum. There was also a clean-up of Ravensbury Park organised by the Wandle Trust as part of their monthly clean-up programme. Several familiar faces from WVForum member groups were there and much fascinating hardware was taken out of the river as well as a litter pick with the help of a squad of local students.



Beddington North Neighbourhood Forum (BNNF)

Richmond Green (see OPINION) below

Between Beddington Park and Waddon Ponds, a few yards from the Wandle banks, lies the tranquil bungalows of Richmond Green, until recently homes reserved for pensioners. Local residents including members of **BNNF** have learnt what Sutton Council intends for the road and its elderly community. Following flooding a few years ago some residents were moved out, with due compensation, and have not returned, leaving properties empty.

Meanwhile local residents believe the council wants to build 2-3 bedroomed social housing which is in short supply. Some local residents feel that the attempts at consultation so far have simply increased the anxiety of those remaining in the area about the remains of their community and that new larger houses will replace the bungalows and now it looks as though they will be built on open grassland with the loss of several mature trees along the Wandle's banks. They fear the increase in residential density will stretch local infrastructure, create a parking nightmare and end the tranquillity they value so much.

Tel/con interview with Tim Foster, (Beddington North Neighbourhood Forum)

Richmond Green Beddington - Save the Green?

COMMENT

Whilst the council is reacting to legitimate needs and the priorities for housing are real and pressing the WVForum can only comment that this small area is particularly suited for older people and that any encroachment on the green open space between the bungalows and the river should be resisted as this is essentially regarded as part of the Wandle Valley Regional Park. Further frank and open consultation clearly needs to take place with local residents and stakeholders about council needs/aims and existing residents' environmental anxieties including restoration and flood prevention work. Building on open space on or adjacent to the WVRP should be resisted as far as possible. **Ed.**

Deen City Farm Barn Dance (from MVSC email)

Join Deen City Farm on Saturday 6th December at their 'Barn Dance' event featuring The Knock-Kneed Bumblebee Band!

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

Mitcham's famous Cricket Green plays an important role in the Wandle Valley Regional Park. We are working with Merton Council on two Heritage Lottery Fund bids totalling over £3m. These include plans to link Cricket Green to the Wandle Trail. We have also just finished our own HLF project, including an audio trail to guide anyone around the area. This can be downloaded from www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk. More worrying news is the decline of the much loved and Grade II listed Burn Bullock pub. This has just been added to the national Heritage at Risk register which is managed by English Heritage and is the subject of much local campaigning. **Tony Burton**

Friends of Mitcham Common

The Friends of Mitcham Common mounted a workshop event on November 3rd aimed at kicking off a series of new ideas for the Friends in the future and what local people would like to see happen on the Common? The workshop, hopes to come up with ideas for Common events, and how the Friends might be run in the future and work better with the Conservators. If you couldn't make it they would still love to hear your thoughts about how a local group can have a greater influence in the area. **FMCC**

Merton Priory. In a Pickle about the Ditch.

The original route of the Wandle at Colliers Wood. The excavation Dave Saxby did of the spot where the "Kiss Me Hardy" pub was built showed the Roman Stane Street fording the Wandle at that point, which confirms that the Pickle Ditch was the original course of the Wandle. The stretch where the Wandle parallels the High Street and then turns a right angle into Wandle Park was created artificially much later. **John Hawks**

Wandsworth-on-the-Water



Ram Brewery from Wandsworth High St with tiered Wandle banks

Greenland, the Chinese development company that has taken over from Minerva, arrives just as the Ram Brewery in Wandsworth Town has finally negotiated its way through the planning process and the marketing office is now open for business. Although the 42 floor tower had been dropped there remains a 36 floor triangular tower, cynically fattened up on all three sides to compensate for the trimming back required by the last Inquiry Inspector's Report. It is just yards from the Wandle banks (technically the Regional Park).

Linking the Wandle Trail & Thames Path

The Wandsworth and neighbouring societies led a spirited campaign against the excesses of the scheme and is supporting the Forum in requesting a coherent strategy for linking the Thames Path to the Wandle Trail taking into account the pressures of the new Ram retail centre. To be clear, opening up the Brewery site will be good for Wandsworth town centre as will the substantial enhancements to the Wandle banks through the development – but the usual caveat applies: density is still too high.

One afterthought, the level of the river here is quite low. This is partly mitigated by the cut away terracing and planting. However might a meter rise in water level by retaining water make the river feel more natural and less dyke-like without upsetting the eco-balance and flow dynamics?

Garratt Lane Burial Ground Scheme

Another new development is now proposed for the town centre next to the Old Burial Ground (which also happens to be designated as part of the WVRP) and South Thames College. The Old Burial Ground was improved by funding sourced via Wandsworth Town Centre Partnership some years ago and greatly enhances the town centre and improves pedestrian access. The redevelopment offers both some tangible improvements and the usual density disadvantages. New access and town centre 'permeability' between the High Street and Sainsbury's will be created which is most welcome and expands the public domain but again, the cost is the overwhelming of the skyline by a twenty six floor block. This is not fully compensated for by the demolition of dreary sixties style council offices.

The notorious gyratory system that the Wandle bisects is finally for the chop with TfL consulting on a rather clever two way plan that excludes through traffic from part of the High St. Some anomalies still to sort but definitely progress!

BSJB

Wandle Valley Forum

Invites you to its AGM Party!

Members are invited on **Fri Jan 23rd** to the **Colour House Theatre, Merton Abbey**. What is an AGM Party? It's an AGM where the essential business is undertaken promptly so we can then relax and enjoy the company of Wandle Valley park & river enthusiasts and meet some of the movers and shakers in the Valley. Please let Melanie know asap if you can come as places may be limited and we are still working on catering details. We hope to show the Vandalis film and may ask you for a modest donation. Watch for details on the invitation email.

A century of golf in the Wandle Valley

A century ago Mitcham Golf Club was known as Princes – rather a misnomer as it seems to have been used primarily by Prime Ministers including Balfour and Disraeli and many Lords and MPs. The reason was that it had the two essential benefits of being exclusive and convenient to get to. Today fortunately 'exclusivity' means exclusive to golf enthusiasts and convenience remains its proximity about 100 yards from Mitcham Junction. So MPs could be back at the "house in under an hour to vote on the issues of the day. It became a public course in 1925 when PM Ramsey MacDonald opened it to members of Mitcham Village Golf Club although it is not stated as to whether he played. It's moorland turf makes it one of the driest courses in the country and it can be played year round. For a more detailed history and details about the club check their website www.mitchamgolfcourse.co.uk.

BSJB

Poulter Park work begins



From right: 2nd Peter Wilkinson project leader, 3rd Bella Davis, Wandle Trust, 5th Rebecca Watts, LWLP. (Photo Alistair Hayes)

Ground breaking photo opportunity for key members of this Big Green Fund project lead by Peter Wilkinson. November 6 marks the start of work on this series of projects. This is one of the big open space enhancements whose inception is a result of Regional Park status and PWs initiative. The cluster of projects includes Wandle Trail enhancements, access to Watermeads and riverbanks for the first time in 50 years, Spencer Rd Wetlands boardwalk and Bennets Hole. Congratulations to all who made it happen – watch for news of completion dates.

BSJB

Beddington Incinerator:

To be or not to be? Or is it to be 2 incinerators!?

The 'Stop the Incinerator' campaign succeeded in getting the Oct 10 Judicial Review which will be decided following the outcome of a similar case in a few weeks. The granting of the review related to whether Sutton Council had a vested interest in approving the scheme. Although it is common sense that the local council should have a vested interest, on the other hand should they then be the arbiters of related conflicting priorities, such as the wellbeing of the adjacent regional park and nationally important bird sanctuary? Time is running out for them as they are obliged by EU regs' to sort out their waste management in line with landfill directives and incineration is one strategy that enables them to 'remain legal' when the local landfill is full, and to be fair, incineration does have some recycling benefits as well as a downside!

COMMENT

1. Much of the communal angst about incineration comes down to the issue of trust. But this is not helped by recent press revelations about the veracity of motor industry emission claims. It seems the official 'Euro 6' tests are being passed for some models because the engines are tuned to pass the tests rather than actually bring down emissions in normal use. If some car makers have orchestrated such a deception for government monitors, let's hope that the waste management industry has a more principled approach for the Environment Agency when claiming that new incinerators are so clean there are no measurable toxic emissions.

2. Councils need to get the latest independent scientific input into their tender briefings. Sutton commented that they left the choice of technology open and only incinerators were offered. Could the brief have been written to attract bids from alternative technology (Advanced Gas Plasma or Advanced Thermal Treatment) and has technology moved on in the last two years? Google DEFRA and the above technology websites for technology comparison reports.

3. Whatever process is installed, looking at some original council papers on another incinerator (see below), also impacts on trust as there appears to be a high level of applicant disregard of the conditions applying to initial work. As toxic emissions are such a critical safety factor it will be vital that the agreed environmental regulations and operating regime are closely monitored by the council/EA/H&S as the fear that corners could be cut if money can be saved resulting in toxin release cannot sadly be regarded as unfounded.

4. The late **Dr Dick van Steenis** was a well known UK challenger to the use of incinerators. He wrote many medical papers on the dangers of incinerators and PM2.5's They are highly relevant and make interesting reading. (Google his name).

Ed. The writer is not qualified to make technical judgements but has read the views of some who are.

Another incinerator !?

ATT (advanced thermal treatment) is proposed for a second waste processing project in Beddington that first aired in 2011. But some local residents still have strong reservations about any sort of incineration. **Roy Bennett (Hackbridge)** raises the issue of 'temperature inversion' which can cause emissions to linger longer – a concern in populated areas.

The **Beddington Farmlands Group** also had concerns on the smaller lower temperature incinerator but its size and location were not as sensitive. Mitigation was offered, so they registered reservations rather than objecting. So does this or an alternative like gas plasma offer a better process for Viridor and the community or do they all present problems? Only independent professional scientists/academics can provide the full answer no matter how much we google.

Encouraging decision making based on sound academic review might need mayoral support. Well we gave Boris the arguments many months ago if he also looks up Dr van Steenis's research he may want to review the incineration option again.

BSJB



Wandle Valley Treasures: St Mary's Beddington

St. Mary's Church Beddington Park stands next to the better known Carew Manor now an 'academy' in Dept of Education terminology. St. Mary's looks like a typical Gothic church of its period perhaps a little too big to be the Manor's chapel. It is one of the most interesting churches in the Valley with its flint faced exterior and a nave dating back to the 14th century. Its level of decoration in stained glass windows and iconographic panels is exceptionally rich and bright and one of its star attractions must be the organ panelling by William Morris, whose factory was three miles downstream along the Wandle which flows a few yards from the church, and includes some of his lighter more Provencal style willow leaf designs. The church has been extensively renovated and its facility rooms used for community functions including the one below. **BSJB**

"River Wandle: Flowing Through Time"

One of a group of projects under the "Living Wandle Landscape Partnership" programme funded by the **Heritage Lottery Fund** has been successfully concluded. On 27 September 2014 Groundwork London and the many volunteers involved had a chance to celebrate the project at a festival held at Merton Abbey Mills.

There were many stalls and, among other things, passers-by could find out about river restoration works, the oral history project and learn about the park, its branding and gateway projects on a stall manned by Sue Morgan (see p1) CEO of the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust. Groundwork London displayed their beautiful publication "River Wandle: Flowing Through Time" which contains personal memories of the river collected by volunteers and recorded for posterity. This is available to view online at <http://www.blurb.co.uk/b/5569291-river-wandle-flowing-through-time> or for a free pdf download please contact Nicola Judd at Groundwork (nicola.judd@groundwork.org.uk). For people who would like a hard copy, a smaller version of the book is being produced for purchase.

Vandalis

The festival culminated with a premiere of the film "Vandalis", (latin for Wandle), created mainly by volunteers. The film is a series of snapshots showing how people lived along the Wandle from Anglo-Saxon times through to the present day (it features Admiral Nelson, William Morris and Arthur Liberty!) and it was very well received by the audience.

There was another showing of the film in October at St Mary's Church, Beddington, for the Friday walkers and others. Nicola Judd brought the "Roadshow" along and afterwards we were able to look at William Morris prints, the book and some of the costumes used in the film, many handmade by Sharon McElroy.

My favourite part of the film is the story of the typhus outbreak in the orphanage at Carew Manor. This is because it was inspired by a project which I undertook in June 2009 for the Wandle Valley Festival, an annual event organised by Vicki Carroll with great success, which will hopefully return very soon. At the time, after a request in the local Guardian, three ex-orphans, who had last seen each other in 1939 when the orphanage moved from Carew Manor to Cornwall, were re-united. One of them is Sheila Norton, who still lives in Carshalton, and her memories are contained in the book.

There is also a report of the project available for a small donation to the Borneo fund (contact Melanie for details, minnunuzet@gmail.com). It tells the stories of some of the orphans which I obtained from the archives at Sutton Library. On the occasion of the Wandle Valley Festival the 11th Mitcham Brownies dressed up in mob caps and aprons and took part in a performance at St Mary's Church, reading extracts from these stories.



In the photo you can see Tom Brake, MP for Carshalton and Wallington, with myself, Sheila Norton and Sharon McElroy at St Mary's Church in Beddington.

Melanie Nunzet

New training & job opportunities in the Valley

In October 2014 Groundwork London (a leading social and environmental regeneration charity) will be launching their horticulture training scheme, known as 'Green Teams' in the Wandle region. The Wandle Green Team will focus activity on The Wandle Trail.

This is possible thanks to a new partnership between Groundwork London, the WVRP, Merton and Croydon councils and open space management company, Quadron Services Ltd.

Sue Morgan, CEO of The Wandle Valley Regional Park said, "There has been a long held ambition to integrate training and employment opportunities for young people into the development of the Wandle Valley Regional Park and with a recent successful bid to the Mayor's Big Green Fund we're thrilled this has now become possible with the launch of the Wandle Green Team".

Groundwork's 'Green Teams' provide temporary employment and training for young people, to prepare them for careers in horticulture. Four apprentices will join the new Wandle Green Team on a full time basis for 6 months, after which they will continue in paid apprenticeship with Merton Council or Quadron for a further 12 months. All apprentices will attend Capel Manor College one day a week and complete a Level 2 Diploma.

The new Wandle Green Team will carry out a programme of specified horticultural work along the Wandle Trail. This will involve vegetation clearance, habitat construction, repairing paths, tree and shrub planting and felling small trees in sites including Bennett's Hole Nature Reserve, Poulter Park, The Hub, Spencer Road Wetlands and Watermeads Nature Reserve.

Groundwork London's three over-arching objectives are: Creating better places, promoting greener living and improving people's prospects.

Melanie's Autumn-Winter Walks & Events 2014-15

Date	Meeting place/time	Description
Wed 12 Nov	Honeywood Museum 7.30 pm	Renaissance Gardens in the local area and beyond - An illustrated talk by John Phillips on two great local gardens – Beddington and Nonsuch – in their British and European context. Call the Honeywood on 8770 4297 to book.
Fri 14 Nov	St Mary's Church (details below) 10.00 am	Visit to the Honeywood -Walk though Beddington Park and Grove Park to the Honeywood Museum by Carshalton Ponds. Cost (£3) will include cake, tea/coffee and donation to museum. Return to Beddington Park at the end of visit. Must be booked in advance, please call or email. 2-3 miles, easy
Sat 6 Dec	Morden Underground 11 am	Carshalton Frost Fair - Walk along the Wandle Trail and enjoy the craft and food stalls, a hog roast and live music by Carshalton Ponds. Organised by the Friends of Honeywood and Ecological. Events for all the family, including Santa's Grotto in the Honeywood. Finish Carshalton Station. 4-5 miles, easy
Sat 21 Feb	Mitcham Junction 10.30 am	Wandle Walk along the Wandle Trail via Hackbridge and Carshalton, to include a visit to Wilderness Island. We return to Mitcham Junction via Beddington Park and Beddington Farmlands with a stop at the café for refreshments. Joint walk with London Strollers. 5-6 miles, easy

All walks starting at Mitcham Junction meet at bus stop on bridge.

Sutton Healthy Walks - Come and join us for an hour's walk around Beddington Park or Waddon Ponds every Friday morning at 10 am. Meet by St Mary's Church, Church Road, Wallington SM6 7NJ (Buses: 407 from Sutton, 463 from Mitcham). Refreshments available at church after walk. Voluntary contribution to church funds. Tour of church possible.

Merton Health Walk – Join Cathy or Liz for a walk around **Mitcham Common** every Thursday. Meet at 11 am Mitcham Junction Station. Refreshments afterwards at Mitcham Golf Club. For other health walks in Merton please visit www.merton.gov.uk/walk4life.

Friends of Mitcham Common

Please contact me if you'd like to subscribe to the Magpie newsletter and support the Friends in their valuable work protecting the Common. A year's subscription costs £2.50 and five years just £10. You will receive a free copy of the recent publication: Mitcham Common: A Short History (by Janet Morris) and several newsletters every year.

Two short reports about the orphan girls of **Carew Manor (Royal Female Orphanage Asylum at Beddington)** and an event to mark the installation of a plaque at the former **Tower Creameries on Mitcham Common** are available for a small donation to the Borneo fund.

For details of how to join the **Beddington Farmlands Bird Group** and receive updates on the birds and wildlife please contact Peter Alfrey on littleoakgroup@btinternet.com.

Please note: several of the above walks are also on the Sutton & Wandle Valley Ramblers' programme but all are welcome. To be added to the mailing list please email me on mlnnunzet@gmail.com. Please note the second letter is an 'l', not 'i'. Any other queries please call 07944 833605. Thank you and happy walking!

River Clean-up this Sunday?

Wandle Trust run a programme of river clean-ups on the second Sunday of the month. You are welcome to join the fun this **Sunday 9th November**, meeting at Plough Lane bridge. For future clean-up locations in your area go to www.wandletrust.org

Outreach - A Profusion of Confusion?

It appears that there are currently amongst the outreach projects underway within the Living Wandle Partnership projects that seek to recruit Watchers, Guardians and Ambassadors. Realising that this situation could cause a lot of confusion and project overlap, the recent meeting (Nov 5th) of the (HLF) Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Steering Group, concluded that some recasting of the projects was essential.

They include:

Wandle Watchers - a project to encourage local people to train and engage with the river's wildlife and monitor it in the long term along with the health of habitat etc..

Wandle Guardians – a team of volunteers to watch and report on pollution and hazards as they patrol their local river reach.

Wandle Ambassadors – volunteers from housing associations and estates who are encouraged to get their neighbours involved with, and learn about, their local river.

The project leaders will meet and consult to decide if an umbrella group should be created to front all three groups and consider whether any redefining of their individual profile and aims would be helpful. Within these projects there could be much of interest to Forum group members. We will report on the outcome of these deliberations as soon as the issues have been resolved. **BSJB**

Mad Idea of the month?

The aforementioned tombstone building at Collier's Wood seems to be bending brains as no solution has been found that solves its deeply unloved darkside demeanour. Why not put it to the Royal College of Art or the AA or RIBA equivalent body to come up with a mad but possibly brilliant external surface design solution to what we must assume is internally, a perfectly functional and logically sited building. Presumably if no solution is found levelling it remains an option? **BSJB**

Wandle Valley Forum Needs You

Anyone from eligible member groups who is interested in further assisting the Wandle Valley Forum in carrying out its role, please join us at the **forthcoming Forum AGM/Party on Fri Jan 23rd at the Colour House Theatre, Merton Abbey** and let's talk about how you could get involved.

The Forum is looking for volunteers to:

- Join the Executive Committee
- Monitor planning applications
- Contribute to the Newsletter or website
- Assist with Membership and subscriptions

In the next issue

In the next issue we will endeavour to throw some light on the basis of the Regional Park's boundary – something that we know is of interest to some member groups. We will also look at what benefits Regional Park status brings and the implications of the WVRP Trust not being a statutory body unlike the Lee Valley Park and the four local authorities who are the statutory bodies for most of the park. Your views on this will be welcome although we can't guarantee to publish them all. Please direct emails to: bsjb@onetel.com

We do of course continue to ask members and all stakeholders to provide useful and informative articles on any related topic for possible inclusion. *Ed.*

Who's who in the Valley

Some of the key groups involved with the Wandle Valley Regional Park. It is to be known as Wandle Valley (like Lee Valley) on its signage and logo whilst its management is the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust or WVRP for short.

Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust.

The administrative/management body responsible for the Regional Park. It is a charity and has a board of Trustees including 2 from Merton, Wandsworth, Sutton & Croydon, 2 from Wandle Valley Forum, 1 from each of Mitcham Common Conservators, Wandle Trust, Natural England, South London Business, and the Environment Agency. However it is not a landowner itself and has no control over planning. www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Wandle Trust

The charity group that led the successful bid for £2.4m lottery funds (with support from the councils and other bodies). Primarily concerned with the quality of water, biodiversity and habitat they work with an active young fishing club, the Piscators, and promote sustainable fishing and other activities. They also have a permanent environmental scientist on their board and also provide a programme of river clean-ups on the second Sunday of the month, which its members and members of Wandle Valley Forum and other groups regularly support. www.wandletrust.org

Wandle Valley Forum

The umbrella group for the 60 or so community groups that have an interest in the Wandle Valley Regional Park. It was the Forum that undertook the early development of the Regional Park concept nearly ten years ago. At that time all stake holders including local authorities, were members. Membership is now solely for community groups and charities and so The Forum is also the designated consultee body for the WVRP and has two directors on the Trust Board. It provides a network and platform for those with Regional Park and river Wandle issues. This newsletter is one of its key communication channels. It welcomes new member groups. bsjb@onetel.com

Living Wandle Landscape Partnership

The partnership set up to manage the HFF Lottery Fund award programme of projects. Rebecca Watts is project coordinator currently sharing office space with the WVRP CEO at Morden Hall Park. Projects range from outreach and education to actual landscape enhancements including, Waddon Ponds, Wandle Trusts Catchment Plan, and several Gateway projects, as well as contributing to Merton Priory Chapter House Museum. For info search via Wandle Valley Regional Park website and there is also a Facebook and Twitter presence.

Wandle Valley Forum is the consultee body for Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust. It provides a news, ideas, concerns and information network related to enhancing and safe-guarding Wandle Valley Regional Park for over 50 community groups in the Wandle Valley.



