



Don Network Newsletter

Winter 2015

Happy 2016
to all Don
Networkers

The **Don Network Newsletter** brings you the news of what's happening across the Don Catchment. **Got something to share?** If you have any news or features you would like to share please contact the Don Network.

Salmon a – leaping



A leaping Atlantic salmon was caught on camera at Aldwarke weir on the eastern edge of urban Rotherham.

Extraordinary footage capturing the fish's efforts to jump the weir was taken by 18 year old Oscar Downing, whose father, Anthony, is an environment officer at the Environment Agency. Having heard about sightings of salmon in the river, Oscar thought he would try his luck at getting one on film. Only 20 minutes after setting up his camera the fish made its appearance.

The presence of salmon at Aldwarke has been made possible by the new hydropower scheme, built and run by Barn Energy, four kilometres downstream at Thrybergh weir. Opened in October 2015, the scheme includes a specially designed passage to enable salmon, other fish and eels to swim upstream.

Mark Simon, Chief Executive of Barn Energy, said "It's fantastic to see salmon at Aldwarke, so soon after our new fish passage was opened. Whilst generating renewable electricity is our number one priority, we also wanted to see salmon safely navigate upstream towards Sheffield. It's wonderful that they are now doing so, and we hope that we will see a lot more fish up and down the River Don."

The video footage can be seen [here](#)

Pictures and video footage by Oscar Downing from Harry and Oscar Films.

Don Networkers get together

The Don Network got together in November at Rotherham United's ground for what is hoped will be an annual event. The Network heard from a wide range of speakers including Yorkshire Water, Wildlife Trusts, a community group and the Environment Agency, as well having plenty of time to chat and meet old and new friends



Reconnecting the Dearne

Baffles fitted to the weir at Bolton on Dearne will help fish to move up the river. The project, carried out by the Don Catchment Rivers Trust, uses baffles to create areas of quieter water that the fish can use to navigate the structure. A similar scheme will be carried out on the weir at Old Moor when water conditions allow. When this work is complete fish will be able to move freely within the river Dearne between the weir at Houghton and the confluence with the River Don.

HDPE baffles create a simple solution



Weirs further upstream, like this one at Clayton West, will provide a challenge because of its height and the narrowness of the river.

Working on the Rother/ Doe Lea? Got some plans to share?

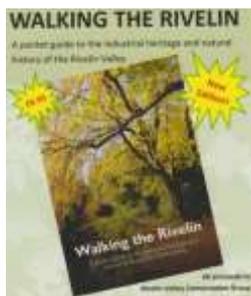
When: 9.30 AM Tuesday 2 February

Where: Environment Agency office, Templeborough, Rotherham

This workshop is for anyone working on or around the Rother or Doe Lea. Partners are invited to share their plans, learn what else is going on in their area and find opportunities to work with new people. Email Donnetwork@dcr.org.uk if you would like to attend.



Book corner



Rivelin Valley Conservation Group has produced a new edition of their **pocket guide to industrial heritage and natural history of the Rivelin Valley**. Available from Rivelin Park Café and other local outlets. Email rvcg@supanet.com for more info.



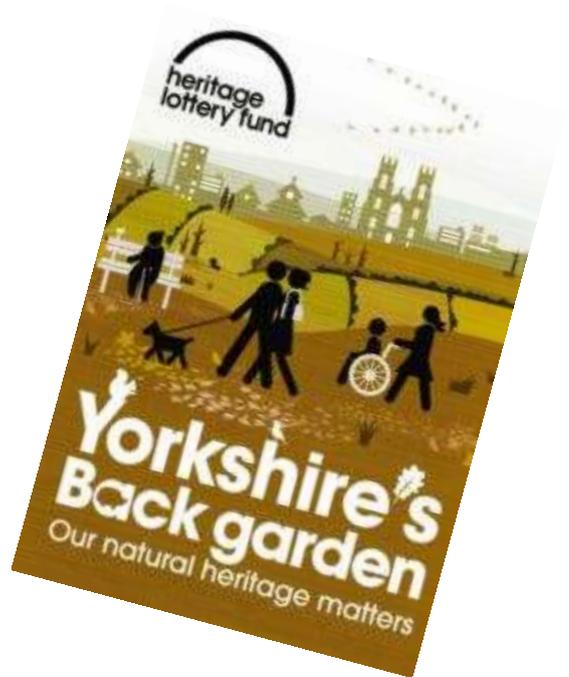
Chris Prescott from the Network shared with us a copy of **'Tour of the River Don'** – a fascinating description of the river and its surroundings from 1836. Available free from Google Books [here](#).

Job opportunities

Following funding approval Don Catchment Rivers Trust have now got permission to start the Living Heritage of the |River Don project. **They are looking to appoint three new staff to support the project.** More info and application forms available at <http://www.dcr.org.uk/archives/2070>. Closing date 12 January 2016.

Funding opportunities

Heritage Lottery has a new initiative for exploring natural heritage in Yorkshire. You can apply for grants from £3,000 to £100,000 for projects from restoring threatened habitats to helping people explore and study nature on their doorstep. To find out more visit www.hlf.org.uk or call 0113 388 8030 or mail yandhdevelopment@hlf.org.uk



Biosecurity and Fish Disease



Several non-native sturgeon have been caught in the canals around Doncaster recently. Sturgeon released into the wild can carry diseases which threaten native populations and may struggle to survive after release. To protect native stocks non-native fish can only be kept in fisheries under strict conditions. Report any sightings to the Environment Agency's 24 hour Incident Hotline **0800 80 70 60**.



Find out more about Heritage Lottery funding

When: 1.30 PM Thursday 14 January 2016
Where: St Catherine's House, Doncaster

This workshop is for anyone interested in applying for funding for natural heritage projects.

Hear from the Development Manager of HLF Yorkshire and Humberside, and the Canal and River Trust's Enterprise Manager along with representatives from the Don Catchment Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency.

Places are limited, book now by emailing Donnetwork@dcr.org.uk

If you have any news or features that you would like to include in future editions of this Newsletter please send them to donnetwork@dcr.org.uk or call Karen Housham on 07867 3850

 I'm part of the Catchment-Based Approach www.catchmentbasedapproach.org

The Don Network partnership is hosted by the Don Catchment Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency
www.dcr.org.uk/the-don-network

