

*March &
April 2015*



BART
bristol avon rivers trust



*Swan on the
Malmesbury Avon,
by Andy Knowles*

BART have been very busy since our last issue, submitting funding bids, planning upcoming projects and doing walkover studies of potential future project sites.

With the upcoming summer season, we have several exciting events detailed in this newsletter which it would be great if you could get involved in.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Please forward it on to anyone who you think may be interested!

The importance of Riverfly monitors and getting volunteers out on our rivers



Following our Riverfly training day detailed in the previous edition, we have been busy doing site visits and Martyn Hale, our Riverfly Coordinator, has been busy organising suitable sampling sites with the help of the Environment Agency! A big thanks to Martyn for this.

Whilst out on the river with a trained volunteer, Project Officer Harriet came across a large amount of **heating oil pollution**. This was reported to the Environment Agency who then responded by soaking up the oil with booms and pads. **The incident was controlled before it reached the main brook in the town.** This event highlights the importance of volunteers looking after their rivers —the brook is a small bramble covered one and this incident may have otherwise gone unreported.

If you observe pollution in a river, please contact the Environment Agency on **0800807060**. Also, if you know of anyone who would like to be trained as a Riverfly monitor, individuals who sample the river for invertebrates to detect for early signs of pollution, please email ian@bristolavonriverstrust.org



Before: Clear presence (and smell!) of oil



After: Little oil remaining

Riverside, Malmesbury



BART have recently completed the final stages of a project led by the Riverside Angling Club to improve the potential of the river beneath the boulder weir on the upper Bristol Avon. The club raised funds to enable the cattle drink to be fenced off and the subsequent in-stream works were completed by BART and the Wild Trout Trust with a financial contribution from the Barbel Society, which does tremendous work across the country encouraging similar improvements to be made.

Yatton & Congresbury Action Group & BART present...

Come along to the Millennium Green, Congresbury on Sunday 5th July 11am - 4pm to find out more about the River Yeo and its wildlife. Lots of activities for all ages. Bring a picnic!

How you can help

We have a number of events coming up with which we could do with volunteers. If you would like to attend or could help out on any of the dates below for any amount of time, please email harriet@bristolavonriverstrust.org

- 9th May, 10.30 am: Heritage and Ecology Walks at Blaise Castle (adults)
- 23rd May, 10.30 am: Heritage and Ecology Walks at Blaise Castle (parents & children)
- 28th May, 12-2pm: Invertebrate sampling, Southmead Activity Centre, Bristol.
- 13th & 14th June: Bristol Festival of Nature, Harbourside, Bristol
- 19th June, 10.30am: Malago school open classroom event.
- 1st August & 2nd August, 10.30am: Wellow Weekend! Balsam bashing & River open day, Wellow Brook, Midsomer Norton

& many more dates to come!

Blaise Community Gardens

BART have recently been working with Friends of Blaise Castle/Blaise Community Gardens, a fantastic group that is doing some impressive work creating a community garden in their grounds alongside the Hazel Brook. The group have already renovated and planted many of the beautiful old greenhouses, the produce from which is sold to fund further works on the project.

Here's how you can (easily!) help the group have a greenhouse remaining that needs restoring as it is structurally unsafe and preventing the access of young children to the site. They have



entered the Aviva Community Fund and it would be really great if you could vote for them on the following link:

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/Project/View/1545>

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact

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or

Harriet Alvis, Project Officer at harriet@bristolavonriverstrust.org