



Canal &
River Trust



Radcliffe On Trent
Parish Council



Nottinghamshire
Wildlife Trust

PRESS RELEASE

Date 11 May 2015

FAMILIES URGED TO EXPLORE WONDERFUL WATERSIDE WILDLIFE

Families are being encouraged to get back to nature and explore one of Nottinghamshire's best-kept wildlife secrets this weekend.

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for 2,000 miles of the nation's historic waterways, and Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council are hosting a weekend of fun activities encouraging families to explore the Radcliffe Lily Ponds, a space which sits next to the River Trent.

The *Lily Ponds 24 hour Bioblitz*, being organised in partnership with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, will give local people the opportunity to come face-to-face with some of the many species that can be found on their doorstep.

The *Bioblitz* will take place on 16th and 17th May, giving people of all ages the chance to have a go at pond dipping, hunting for bugs, learning how to identify wildflower and butterfly species and even willow weaving.

There will also be the opportunity for people to explore some of the nocturnal wildlife that can be found in the area with dusk bat walks and moth trapping.

The event is all part of a plan to encourage communities to rediscover the river and to make more of the natural spaces near where they live.

The Trust, supported by the Parish Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, has developed a management plan which will improve the ecology of the Lily Ponds area, whilst also encouraging more local people to appreciate and enjoy the space.

Danny Brennan, chair of the Canal & River Trust's East Midlands waterway partnership said; "The lily ponds and the nearby river are really wonderful places for wildlife and we want to encourage people of all ages to get out there and discover all the amazing species on their doorsteps."

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“Radcliffe has a special association with the river and that’s maybe been lost slightly in recent years but we’re working hard with the Parish Council to get it back.

“This event is the first step in making that happen, encouraging people to get the family out into the great outdoors, learning about all the amazing wildlife they can find and really giving them an appreciation of their local environment, not least the jewel that is the Lily Ponds space.”

Janet Maughan from Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council said “The Lily Pond area was purchased by the Parish Council in 2013 so it would be protected and remain a wonderful natural area. It would also ensure it was kept for the enjoyment of residents and visitors whilst keeping the balance as an important wildlife sanctuary and a leisure amenity accessible to the public whilst enjoying a walk by the river. The Bioblitz weekend will hopefully help to introduce the area to people who are not familiar with it and show them the wildlife and plants that can be seen there. Please come and support the weekend’s activities.”

The events will be taking place from Base Camp in Rockley Memorial Park as below:

Saturday 16th May:

Daytime activities – 12pm - 3pm

Evening bat walk/moth trapping - 8.45pm

Sunday 17th May:

Daytime activities – 10am - 12pm

For more details contact Mrs Jacki Grice, Parish Clerk, Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council on 0115 9335808 or email clerk@rotpc.com

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For further media requests please contact:

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