

Volunteer River Wardens scheme

Bedford Ouse & Renhold Brook

Interested in your local rivers and wildlife?
Want to help and get involved?

Come along on February 22nd 7.30 - 9.00pm to find out more
(details below)

The Upper and Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership is launching a River Wardens Scheme. The scheme will be led in the Bedford Ouse / Renhold Brook area by the Wildlife Trust BCN and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, with support from the Environment Agency.

We are looking for local residents to become volunteer river wardens
It's a great way to get out and about and learn more about wildlife, your river and how to protect it.

Water is essential for everything we do.

That's why we are working towards improving the quality of all our rivers, lakes and ground waters for everyone to enjoy. Our rivers are a vital part of our environment and ecosystem and are at the heart of local communities.

River wardens can help by:

- Recording wildlife and river features – information which adds to our knowledge and helps to make good decisions.
- Monitoring wildlife including plants, invertebrates, otters, water voles and mink – understanding trends and looking for changes.
- Recording and alerting on pollution incidents – it's vital to respond quickly.
- Record invasive species particularly Himalayan Balsam and floating pennywort - so that action can be taken to deal with them.
- Fly tipping and littering – it's unsightly and threatens people, wildlife and fisheries.
- Recording localised flooding and other river issues which affect your community.

Volunteers can:

- Commit to as little or much time as they want.
- Choose the area that they want to monitor.
- Work in pairs or small groups.

River Wardens will be fully supported by Wildlife Trust BCN and BRCC staff and the Upper and Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership (<http://ubocp.org.uk>), which includes the Environment Agency. All training and equipment will be provided.

We will be holding an event to introduce this scheme on

Wednesday 22 February, 2017 from 7:30-9pm

Priory Methodist Church Hall

63 Newnham Avenue, Bedford, MK41 9QJ

There will be a presentation between 8.00 and 8.30pm but we will be available from 7.30 until 9.00pm for you to ask questions, to see examples of what River Wardens have achieved in other areas and to find out more about what is involved.

If you are interested in coming [please book a place](#) or call 01234 364213. Alternatively, if you are interested in getting involved but are unable to attend on 22 February, please send an email to [Penelope Chaney](#).

