Neighbourly
The Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative is now on Neighbourly, a social media site that connects community projects with organisations that want to help. The PHCI can set up projects on the site as well as support projects, so if you have a project or event that you would like promoting, could support other projects or would just like to find out more please contact Lorraine Isgar: Lorraine.Isgar@wessexwater.co.uk or visit: www.neighbourly.com.

Catchment Fisheries Plans
The Westcountry River Trust (WRT) has been developing the concept of Catchment Fisheries Plans (CFPs) which can be integrated into the Catchment Initiatives. The aim of CFPs is to collect the best available evidence on our fisheries, such as status of fish stocks and Water Framework Directive failures. It brings together fisheries organisations and their data to create a pragmatic action and monitoring plan that will guide river improvements. One example of what the CFPs would include would be barriers to fish migration. The barriers would be mapped and rated in terms of priorities and likelihood of funding. For more information on this new development, please contact Scott West: scott@wrt.org.uk.

Holes Bay – Saltmarsh Regeneration
A project to stabilise and regenerate mudflats and saltmarsh within Holes Bay has begun. This project aims to enhance the environment and manage the sediment budgets by beneficially recycling the muds dredged from local marinas in a sustainable way that marine industries could continue in future years. This year the relevant applications and approvals will be completed with the pumping of the silt onto the saltmarsh planned for winter 2016. The project will be undertaken by a partnership of; The Borough of Poole, Poole Harbour Commissioners, Cobbs Quay, Davis Boat Yard, RNLI, Network Rail and Dorset Wildlife Trust. For more information contact: s.terry@poole.gov.uk.

Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
In September, the GWCT fisheries team put on their waders to tag 10,000 salmon parr with Passive Integrated Transponders in the river Frome. Approximately 8,500 salmon parr were tagged, just short of the target as the team were rained off for several days. This work contributes to the long-term Frome salmon dataset, helping us to understand, for example, how climatic factors affect salmon parr growth and survival. Also, approximately 3,000 young trout were tagged this year as a part of a project on the life-history strategies of trout. The team tagged salmon parr and trout at a range of locations across the Frome, including a large number of upstream sites to evaluate how they contribute to populations. The GWCT would like to thank all of the volunteers for their help.

Community group improving their river
The Bere Regis Wildlife group, supported by the parish council and Dorset Wild Rivers (DWR) project, have undertaken a wonderful community river restoration project. The DWR project did a survey of their river and what improvements the community group could carry out. Parts of the river was heavily over shaded, so the group undertook selective coppicing, allowing light in so river vegetation can grow which will help create small meanders. The group were also successful in obtaining two small grants, from Wessex Water and the Environment Agency, for purchasing materials and equipment. This autumn, two willow spilling berms have been built and 15 tonnes of new gravel has been shovelled and raked by hand into the river to create mini-meanders and give shape to the river. The group would like to thank DWT for the design and applying for Flood Defence Consent and Hills Quarry who supplied the gravel and didn’t charge haulage.
New rules for operating septic tanks and small sewage treatment plants

New rules have been introduced to simplify the way septic tanks and small sewage treatment plants are regulated in England, protecting the environment and improving water quality. If you have a septic tank or small sewage treatment plant you must comply with the ‘general binding rules’ by ensuring your system is maintained properly and does not cause pollution. Extra protection is in place in areas designated as environmentally sensitive, where people may need to apply for a permit if they install a new system. The general binding rules are easy to follow; you can read them in full at [www.gov.uk/small-sewage-rules](http://www.gov.uk/small-sewage-rules).

Volunteering on the Cheselbourne

A group of volunteers, organised by Dorset Wild Rivers, helped to manage fool’s watercress on a stretch of a tributary of the Devil’s Brook in Cheselbourne. This work is important to the local village because during the winter after heavy rainfall rafts of fool’s watercress can be washed down stream where it can block up culverts, causing localised flooding. More tasks are planned for the future, if you would like to help with this work as well as see some of the bullheads and bank voles living in and alongside the river please contact: info@pooleharbourcatchment.co.uk

Surface water pollution

Any spillage or discharge of polluting matter to surface water or groundwater can have an impact on the water environment. Polluting matter includes anything which can cause a physical change to the water environment or harm to living organisms. In particular surface water that runs off fields of road that contain silt and soils. The Environment Agency welcomes reports of pollution, including from silt or soil, on 0800 80 70 60.

Upcoming events

- **Catchment Sensitive Farming: One Stop Shop for Farm Advice**
  An opportunity to get the advice you need from a range of organisations, including Environment Agency, Natural England and Wessex Water, all at once, with a series of short talks and an opportunity for 1-1 advice.
  **Warminster (date and venue to be confirmed)**
  Email: bookings@farmingadvicebservice.org.uk or call: 0345 345 1302 to book.

- **Catchment Sensitive Farming: Cover Crop Events**
  A chance to visit farms with trial plots demonstrating different cover crops and mixes, looking at ability to catch N, increases in organic matter and multiple soil benefits.
  **Friday 11th December, Deverel Farm, nr Blandford, Dorset**
  To book call Charlotte Woodford 07824 498959 charlotte.woodford@naturalengland.org.uk

- **Dorset Wildlife Trust: Holes Bay Walk for National Wetland Weekend**
  A 5.5 mile circular walk on the Poole Harbour Trail with a stop at Upton Country Park and free walks pack.
  **Sunday 22nd November, 10am-2pm, Poole Quay, BH15 1HL**
  Booking is essential, call 01202 692033

- **Dorset Wildlife Trust: South Dorset Volunteering**
  **Tuesday 24th November, Tuesday 8th December**
  To book or for more information call James Hitchen on 07436 157328

Please visit [www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/events](http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/events) for more upcoming events and volunteering.