

## FARM ENGAGEMENT

Our farms team has been busy engaging with farmers in the Weaver and Bollin catchments as part of the United Utilities, Better Rivers Better North West project. The project is designed to help farmers better manage water and nutrients on their land, and involves engagement events, educational workshops, signposting to information on grants, and providing opportunities to speak to farm advisors. Our next event will take place in the spring. If you would like to get involved, email Sal Potts: [sally@merseyrivers.org](mailto:sally@merseyrivers.org)



## WREATH MAKING

On the 13th of December we gathered at Wilmslow Parish Hall for a festive, end of the year, wreath making event with some of our amazing volunteers and partners. We made some beautiful wreaths from all natural materials, and enjoyed hot chocolate and mince pies together. Huge thanks to all of our volunteers for your help this year, we can't do the work we do without you! Almost 900 volunteer hours were recorded in 2023, and that's not including the hours spent by our River Guardians surveying their local stretch of river or brook. Thank you!

**INNS CONTROLLED ALONG APPROXIMATELY 25KM OF RIVER BANK**

## INVASIVE SPECIES WORK

Working across the Bollin catchment from near the source of the Bollin in Macclesfield to near its end at Lymm, we have covered approximately 25km of riverbank during the 2023 control season. We have purchased equipment such as tree poppers, brushcutters and biosecurity kit to aid stakeholder groups in INNS control work in their areas. We have also been able to fund INNS control training courses for volunteers to enable them to control Japanese knotweed in their areas. Thank you to everyone that works hard to eliminate INNS in the Bollin catchment!

At a glance: Bollin INNS control work 2023



8 staff, 11 vols  
+ contractors



747 hours spent  
controlling INNS



Approx. 25 km  
riverbank covered



£30k funding secured to  
fund equipment and £24k to  
fund work until March 2024



34 Litres of  
glyphosate used



4 species tackled:  
GHW, JKW, HB, Rhody



## MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

Greetings everyone, My name is Justine Lord and I am thrilled to join Mersey Rivers Trust as the new project manager. I began my conservation career at Dunham Massey NT, where I learned a lot about the local wildlife and gained valuable practical skills. Since then, I have worked at various places, including Shugborough NT, Tatton Park and Reaseheath College, where I gained valuable skills and experience in countryside management. I also hold a foundation degree in countryside management. I enjoy foraging and identifying mushrooms and insects, getting involved in practical work and most importantly looking after my menagerie of pets which include a Jumping spider, a millipede, a leopard gecko and a whippet called Winston. I look forward to meeting you all and working together on our exciting projects.

## NEW INNS REPORT PUBLISHED

[Major report on invasive non-native species published.](#)  
The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has published the results of its four-year Assessment on Invasive Alien Species and their Control. View a [summary for policy-makers \(external link\)](#). Defra Biosecurity Minister Lord Benyon said: "Invasive species are one of the top threats to global biodiversity. Today's report is an important step forward in highlighting the importance of this issue, but shows that with greater international coordination and resources we can successfully tackle the problem."



Find out how you can help prevent the spread of invasive non-native species [here \(external link\)](#)



## VOLUNTEERING AND EVENTS

To see details of our upcoming working parties please visit our Eventbrite page or website. Next events will be published in the new year.

Visit our [Eventbrite page](#) for more details.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/mersey-rivers-trust-33379819495>

