

## **Volunteer – Woodmill Activity Centre**

I found your meeting advertised on the Southampton Bluetits site, and would very much like to attend, if possible.

I am a volunteer with Woodmill Activity Centre on Saturdays, with the Junior Canoe club, and the S.E.N.D group. We use the stretch of the river between The Swan, and the "get-in" on the Activity Centre side, just above the barrier, at Woodmill, with canoes, kayaks, sit-on-tops and paddle boards.

When the tides are suitable, and dependant on staffing, we use the weir, and the lower stretch between the cafe and the Northam bridge.

It would be helpful if the trees that have bent into the river could be trimmed back, as the willows especially are happily rooting themselves well into the flow. Also, there is an accumulation of wood that has been dislodged further upriver and half sunk into the river bed, which is a potential hazard for young paddlers.

Fishing tackle is often retrieved by ourselves, hanging from these encroaching branches, as we head up and down river with the children - A danger to wildlife, as well as other river users.

The fishermen, on the whole are very courteous, we try to give their lines as much room as we can. The adults often pick rubbish out of the water on our return journey.

I do not know whether representatives from Woodmill A.C. have been invited to this meeting, the cafe is thriving, too. Southampton Canoe club use Woodmill site as their base, and Upper Hamble Canoe Club use the weir for practice sessions.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice concerns regarding the river. It is a beautiful asset in the County and needs to be cherished.

Carol Bradwell