

Latest news:

- **SINNG is launched**
- **New projects planned**
- **Students team up with the Footprints!**
- **Volunteers always needed**

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Students Invasive Non-Native Group

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Students start to SINNG!

Welcome to the first edition of the Students Invasive Non-Native Group newsletter. SINNG is a local action group initiated by Cornwall College Newquay. The project (funded by DEFRA) continues the work already done on invasive species and aims to raise awareness of the problems of invasive non-native species (INNS) and their effects on native wildlife.

Our fantastic students have already taken part in activities including bio-security & id workshops, pond clearance of invasive aquatic plants and surveying and monitor-

ing of several animal & plant species.

SINNG has also been working with the College



FdSc Applied Ecology student Phoebe Hughes helps clear the pond in Camelford

Green Team & other organisations such as Cornwall Butterfly Conservation, National Trust, MOD conservation group and

local councils to increase awareness and carry out practical tasks to help stop the spread of INNS and increase biodiversity.

There are loads of ways to get involved. If you want to monitor mink rafts, research species such as the signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) or alpine newt (*Mesotriton alpestris*) or help produce educational material there really is something for everyone to take part in whatever your skill or interest.

Email: nicola.morris@cornwall.ac.uk

SINNG meet Trelusback Footprint

SINNG have teamed up with Trelusback Footprint, a conservation project aimed at young people. As well as clearing scrub (and losing the odd welly!) We have been encouraging the members to take a keen interest in invasive species and the effects they have on native habitats.

The plan is to prevent introductions of non-native species to the site preserving what is a beautiful area rich in wildlife. Email Nicola Morris for more information.

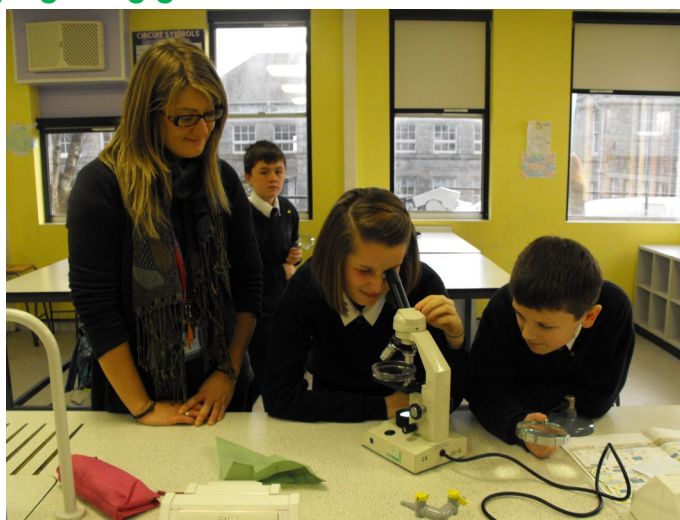
Rafts Ahoy!



The first mink raft has been deployed at Porkellis and this will be checked regularly for mammal tracks. It is hoped to deploy more rafts on the stream bordering the property in the New Year and this will provide the opportunity for students to carry out valuable research.

TAG...You're a zebra mussel!

SINNG volunteers & **STEM** ambassadors **Kathy Troke-Thomas**, & **Nicola Morris** spent a day with 125 year 7 students at Poltair School. They had great fun whilst inspiring the young students who showed real enthusiasm. The first half of the session saw the children playing a tag game which demonstrated the effects the freshwater zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) has on native aquatic species. A quiz took up the rest of the session and the children had a number of native freshwater invertebrate species which they had to identify in teams using microscopes and identification keys. One student said about the event 'I loved looking through the microscope at the bugs'.



Kathy Troke-Thomas helps students identify the bugs.

Wading through invasive species

Students from various FdSc courses have been very busy restoring the pond in Camelford. They joined forces with the Town Council & Friends of Enfield Park to continue work to remove invasive aquatic species such as Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*).

Invertebrate surveys are an on-going aspect of this project and will show an increase in biodiversity as native plants re-establish.



Supporting Defra's Be Plant Wise campaign.





Contact details

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**Supporting Defra's
"Check, Clean,
Dry" campaign.**



Aims of the project

SINNG is a student local action group set up to increase awareness of INNS and increase activity aimed at reducing their spread. We run research projects, identification and bio-security workshops, practical fieldwork & public awareness campaigns.

All targeted species are Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). These include: -

Himalayan balsam

Hottentot fig

6 aquatic pond plants

American mink

Signal crayfish

Zebra mussel

Alpine newt

We have other projects coming up so contact us if anything interests you.



Trust me! You won't want to miss this one.



Himalayan balsam invading a river bank. Photo courtesy of NNSS.

The National Trust are the latest organization to get involved with the SINNG project. The exciting news is that we will be holding a huge weekend of community events in North Cornwall to help reduce the problem of Himalayan balsam. This plant is highly invasive and is causing huge problems to our native plants as it attracts bees which then aren't pollinating our native plants. It also crowds out native species and spreads at an incredible rate.

Date for the diary: - May 19th & 20th.

Place: -The beautiful Valency Valley nr Boscastle.

More details to follow.

Volunteer to SINNG!

If you would like to contribute to the project or help with this newsletter by writing articles, editing or if you are a budding graphic designer then please email

nicola.morris@cornwall.ac.uk

Your help would be gratefully appreciated & could go towards your work experience hours.

Not only that but you'd be helping save our native species!