



BALSAM BASHING

Mike Potter
Pickering Town CIC, PTC,
Slowing the Flow etc



Ryedale Environment Group

WHAT IS IT?



- Himalayan Balsam
- Teaching grandmothers.....
- INNS
- Irwell MSC
- Wet places
- Invasive and vigorous.
- Fights for light, creeps in the dark.
- Roots from leaf nodes.



WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?



- Himalayan balsam seeds grow inside explosive pods that burst open when touched to scatter up to 800 seeds per plant
- Shoots seeds up to 7 meters away.
- Seeds remain active in the soil for roughly 18 to 33 months
- Consequently, outgrows most vegetation.
- Shallow roots and dies back in Autumn.
- Nothing binding riverbanks over winter
- Scour – sediment – dredging - gravels



ACTION?



- NYC locality budget, waders
- Coordination: PTCIC, REG, PFA Volunteers, AgriVision.
- Identify infected areas
- H&S Risk assessment
- Nettles and brambles
- Late Jun to July before it goes to seed.
- Start at the top
- Ideal year – hot and dry!



METHOD?

- Google! Pull, flail, scythe, strim, saw, preferably not spray!
- Snap, bash, pile.
- Repeat. 2-3 years. Mill leat.
- Obsessive.



OTHER STUFF



- Some other excellent work by PEG in conjunction with PTC, verges, wildflower areas, community orchard etc (talk to our excellent town clerk, Angela).
- STF, NFM, Beavers, Geothermal, grab me for a chat.

