

# Do you have aliens on your doorstep?

**ARE there aliens on your doorstep? Could you identify a native or invasive plant or animal? Nicola Morris, project coordinator of the Student Invasive Non-Native Group (SINNG) based at Cornwall College Newquay, will give a talk on invasive species at the Parkhouse Centre in Bude, on Monday, October 15, where all will become clear.**

"Invasive non-native species are those which have been introduced outside their natural range and have then spread rapidly, because they don't have the natural predators to prevent them from spreading," explained Nicola.

"I'm sure most people have heard of Japanese Knotweed and the problems this can cause, well there are lots of non-native invasive plants and animals out there and they are slowly affecting the biodiversity of our flora and fauna. The projects SINNG is working on target invaders which drastically alter habitats and without management and control have a huge impact on native plants and animals."

SINNG was set up at Cornwall College Newquay by students who really care about the local environment. They are heavily involved in increasing action and awareness on invasive species in the county. Nicola's illustrated talk will highlight the impact of these invasive aliens and will describe the work being carried out in the Bude area.

Nicola continued: "During my talk I will be explaining the work SINNG is currently carrying out on the invasive zebra mussels in Bude canal and the removal of Himalayan balsam in the Bude marshes nature reserve. I will also talk about future plans to remove invasive pond plants."

The talk starts at 7.30pm, will cost £3 and everyone is welcome. For more information, please call 01288 352384 or visit [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk). For more information about SINNG, please visit [www.sinng.org.uk](http://www.sinng.org.uk).



**IDENTIFICATION:** Student volunteer Phoebe Hughes clears invasive species from a pond.