

## River Yealm Water Quality Group Catchment Parish News

River Yealm Water Quality Group – RYWQG

Yealm Estuary to Moor – YEM

If only, it was “Only Rain Down the Drain.” Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Pollutants such as dog waste, litter and cigarette butts, contaminated waste from road vehicles and more can and do enter our surface water drains bypassing the Sewage Treatment Works in times of heavy rainfall. How can we help slow the flow entering our streams and rivers undiluted?



Ask your Parish Council if they employ a lengths man? A lengths man would walk the lanes checking that the drains and buddles are free from leaf and other obstructions to allow the free run of rain water into the drains. What is a buddle? “Buddle holes are holes or pipes that carry water through a hedge or a bank as part of road drainage.” The lengths man must be **Chapter 8** trained (Chapter 8 refers to the Traffic Safety Measures and Signs for Road Works and

Temporary Situations manual.) and hold the appropriate level of Public Liability insurance.

**What can we do?** Apart from using pesticides and fertilisers sparingly and not when rain is forecast. Not washing paints and solvents outdoors but disposing of excess paints through the local recycling centre and picking up after Fido and disposing in a poo bin. We can report to the Environmental Agency (EA) unnatural surface water runoff. Read their leaflet on what is unnatural water runoff. It's quite interesting.

<https://wrt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Soil-erosion-and-runoff-handout-EA.pdf>? In an emergency or to report an incident call 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)

Something that the RYWQG are exploring is an initiative called Yellow Fish.

Read more about Yellow Fish next month. We will also talk about the puppies named in Gerald Durrell's 'My family and Other Animals' Widdle and Puke.



In the meantime, thank you for reading. More info, activities and events can be found on the YEM Facebook page or check out YEMs website

<https://yemcorridor.com/>

RYWQG