

River Yealm Catchment Parish News.

An introduction.

Q. What has two arms and runs for 12km?

A. The River Yealm Water Quality Group and the Yealm Estuary to Moor group.

Two arms, get it? One arm, the RYWQG deals primarily with water quality (who would have guessed) and, the focus of the other arm YEM, is to build a riparian corridor, by creating links to existing habitats along the 12km stretch of the river Yealm.



The two groups work side by side. A healthy habitat requires a healthy river and to that end, may I introduce you to the Yealm Dippers. The Yealm Dippers are coordinated by the Yealm Estuary to Moor project as part of the West Country Rivers Trust (WRT) Citizen Science Investigation. From 1st July 2022 to the present, more than 200 sets of entries have been successfully uploaded to WRT's

Cartographer website by 33 volunteers who have monitored 24 sites through the Yealm catchment. If you own a pair of wellies or waders and would like to join the Yealm Dippers, please send an email to yemriver@gmail.com with **CSI** in the title. We would particularly like to hear from Brixton and Sparkwell. An activity planned for Spring 2024 is a "River Fly" survey. More wellie wearing in the river looking for and measuring invertebrate numbers.

Back to water quality, monthly sampling is likely to miss intermittent pollution events such as raw sewage spills from storm overflows and land runoff upon heavy rainfall, this where our continuous water monitor takes centre stage



Ooh, what is a continuous water monitor? Our CWM is a detection device that automatically measures and transmits information about water quality from its secret location in the river every 15 minutes. It was purchased by the River Yealm Water Quality Group using funds raised from the Yealm Catchment Parishes of Brixton, Cornwood, Newton and Noss, Sparkwell and Wembury. For those who would like to know more of this Sonde's findings, a report can be found on the YEM website

<https://yemcorridor.com/Yealmsonde.pdf>

Finally, a request for any **ornithologists** reading this. To know if the habitat creation along the river Yealm is having a positive effect on the wildlife, there first needs to be several baseline surveys. One survey that we need help with is a bird survey. If you can help, please email yemriver@gmail.com with **Bird Survey** in the title field. It may be useful to know that YEM is divided figuratively/geographically into upper Yealm (Cornwood and Sparkwell) middle Yealm (Brixton and Yealmpton) and lower Yealm (Newton & Noss and Wembury.) A big project broken down into three parts.

Thank you for reading and if you are on social media – Facebook – check out our FB page. YEM Yealm Estuary to Moor for project updates, news and volunteering days.

RYWQG comms.

Next month: Only rain down the drain.