



Winter Newsletter for our Zero Pollution Supporters 2022

Hello and welcome to our newsletter; we hope that you are all well and that you have been keeping up to date with our activities on the Stormwater Shepherds UK website at

<https://www.stormwatershepherds.org.uk/>

We have been particularly busy at conferences in recent weeks, delivering presentations about SuDS, pollution from road runoff, climate change and ecosystems. There is so much discussion about pollution prevention in the press and on Social Media at the moment that everyone wants to hear about stormwater management!



Delivering a presentation on SuDS and Climate Change at a conference in the Czech Republic



Measuring Phosphate levels in the River Tongue in Bolton

In July, we worked with friends and partners to complete more litter-picks, and the most impressive one that we did was in Wigan with United Utilities. We managed to remove 1000 plastic bottles, 100 polystyrene food packets and 100 small balls from local dog walkers!



Some of the plastic bottles that we removed from the River Douglas in Wigan

The problem of plastic bottles entering our urban rivers seems to be getting worse across the UK. These bottles then wash out into the oceans, causing long-term harm to marine creatures. There are growing calls for the introduction of a deposit-return scheme, where plastic drinks bottles would be deposited in machines at supermarkets and in town centres in return for a small payment. Do you think that this would be a good idea? If you support this idea, consider writing to your local MP to tell them what you think.



This treatment reed-bed was designed to treat road runoff in Exeter. Stormwater Shepherds would like to work with partners to monitor it to see if it works. Do you know of any business partners who would like to work with us to complete that monitoring?

Your role as a Zero Pollution Supporter. This summer, Jo was trained to count and identify the insects living in a river by the Riverfly training team. This means that she can carry out a Riverfly survey of a river and see how polluted the river is. By training lots of 'citizen scientists' to carry out these surveys, the Rivers Trusts and the Riverfly partnership are hoping to learn more about sources of pollution in rivers, and to work with polluters to reduce their impact on the river. You can be trained to carry out Riverfly surveys too, and then you can contribute to this valuable dataset. If you are interested, have a look at <https://www.riverflies.org/>

Did you know: Some local councils will take your 'real' Christmas tree away to use in river restoration or sand-dune support. Have a look at your local council website, or visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/recycle-or-replant-your-tree-for-a-greener-christmas>



There has been a lot of press coverage this year about storm overflows entering our rivers and oceans across Britain. These overflows cause pollution and are of particular concern in rivers that are used for swimming by local people. Many of the spills are made worse by stormwater entering the sewer from roads, from driveways and from car parks. Better stormwater management can help to reduce these overflows, but if we use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to manage stormwater, we can also reduce flood risk, reduce pollution and create green spaces around our homes and offices. So Stormwater Shepherds is joining-in with the conversations about pollution from storm overflows, to encourage water companies, government and local authorities to use good stormwater management wherever they can. If you are interested in this topic, keep an eye on our website and follow our Director of Operations on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jo-bradley-4a4a0836/>) to see updates and news. You can help at home by using a water butt to capture the rainwater off your roof, and by making sure that your front drive is permeable and allows rainwater to soak away.



Permeable grass paving can create an attractive driveway

