



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

For our Zero Pollution Supporters 2023

HELLO

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 stormwatershepherds.org.uk

We have had a very busy summer as the press interest in sewer overflows continues, and the regulators carry out a number of investigations into the performance of the water companies. There has also been a lot of discussion about water supply, as we had a hard drought in June and some water companies were on the brink of having real problems. Stormwater Shepherds has been working on all these topics, but we also continue to carry out research to answer some of the questions that everyone is asking.

LATEST NEWS



Our Director of Operations was very excited to receive an award from CIRIA for being the Experienced SuDS Professional of 2023.



We visited this beautiful rain garden in Edinburgh this summer. It is in the Botanic gardens and it helps to capture rainwater and prevents the footpath from flooding but, at the same time, it creates a dense, green 'jungle' for the wildlife to enjoy.

SERIOUS SURFACE WATER FLOODING ACROSS ENGLAND

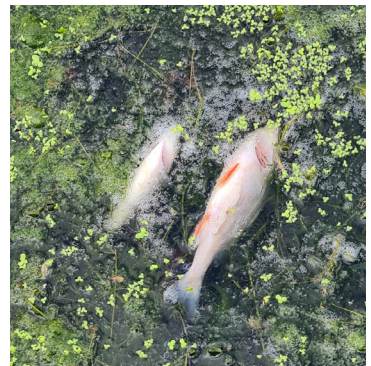


The heavy rain that came in July, after the long hot dry spell in June caused some serious surface water flooding across England. Stormwater Shepherds took this opportunity to gather some photos and video to remind everyone that good retro-fit sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) can be deployed to reduce this flooding. This surcharging sewer (left) could be managed using new rain-gardens on the road at the top of the hill. The raingardens would allow the water to soak into the ground, helping the flowers to grow and creating habitats for butterflies and bees. Did you notice any surface water flooding near your home in the summer storms?




RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

We have been sampling the sediment in highway drainage treatment ponds to support Middlesex university as they measure the number of tyre-wear particles in the ponds.



During the hot weather in June, there were many reports of dead fish in rivers and ponds across England. They often die because there is not enough oxygen in the water and this can be made worse by urban runoff entering the rivers when it rains during thunderstorms



Are you preparing for Christmas yet? What can you do to make your Christmas as plastic-free as possible? If you plan-ahead, you can make those changes now and share them with your family so that everyone joins in. In our next newsletter, we'll include top-tips for reducing your plastic-footprint.

YOUR ROLE AS A ZERO POLLUTION SUPPORTER

We are hoping to publish a paper in November that describes the problem of pollution from microplastic tyre-wear particles. You can reduce the number of tyre-wear particles that your tyres shed by keeping them inflated to the correct pressure, and by driving gently, with less braking and accelerating. If the local authority is planning to build any new roads near your home, you can comment on the planning application and encourage them to include treatment systems such as ponds and basins to capture some of the tyre-wear particles and other pollutants.

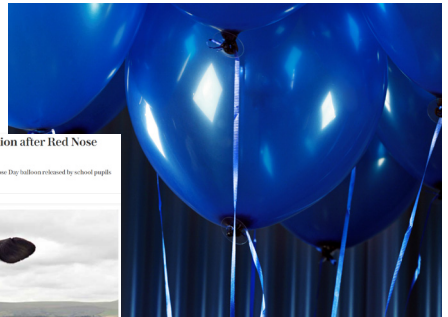


DID YOU KNOW?

Celebration helium balloons contain plastic and they can cause pollution if they land in rivers and oceans. They also pose a terrible risk of choking to farm animals and some countries are starting to ban them. If you have helium balloons for your parties, don't release them into the air; keep them indoors and put them in the bin when you have finished with them.

Farmer wins compensation after Red Nose Day balloon kills cow

A farmer has won compensation after a Red Nose Day balloon released by school pupils killed his cow.





This Autumn, as the vegetation dies back around rivers and streams, it will reveal all the litter that has built up over the summer. This is a good time to join a local litter-picking group to help to collect all the litter and to safely dispose of it.

KEEP IN TOUCH

We are delighted to have you 'on-board' as a Zero Pollution Ambassador. Let us know if you find out about grants and funds that you think that we may be able to bid into so that we can deliver more projects to improve stormwater management.

And let us know if we can help you too; we can help you to organise a litter-pick, or talk to local groups about plastic pollution and the impacts of stormwater.

Stormwater Shepherds UK is a registered Charity, number 1195055

➤ Visit our website to see what we have been up to at stormwatershepherds.org.uk

📷 Instagram [stormwatershepherdsuk](https://www.instagram.com/stormwatershepherdsuk)