

Angling club President helps to keep an eye on the health of the Wharfe

This initiative is co-ordinated by the Riverfly Partnership and is a way of monitoring water quality in rivers. Anglers and other volunteers are trained to identify invertebrates in a stretch of river and then undertake a monthly audit. Volunteers focus on specific species such as caddis fly larvae, which provide a good indicator of water quality. They take three-minute kick-samples every month from the same stretch of the river to ensure consistency. The levels of invertebrates found are logged on a chart and sent into the co-ordinator for that area, who collates them to provide a picture of the river as a whole.

Co-ordinators act as a channel of communication with the Environment Agency and can alert the EA to any change in invertebrate levels which could indicate a reduction in water quality, which can then be investigated by EA officers.

In the past, such indications have been traced to sewage emissions or pollution incidents which have then been contained early enough to minimise their impact.

IAA President Steve Fairbourn attended a recent training course and will be monitoring the Wharfe in Ilkley for the next year.

Anyone interested in finding out more should contact Steve via the club website.

Further details are on the Riverfly Partnership monitoring scheme are available on

<http://www.riverflies.org/riverfly-partnership-monitoring>