

Addingham's Water:

Using it wisely

Mt Hermon Chapel

Wednesday, 17th July, 2024



Yorkshire Water's Tom Ogden and Jo Emsley were the guest speakers. Tom explained that Addingham's tap water is sourced from the Graincliffe Water Treatment Works near Bingley and its wastewater is pumped for treatment to Ilkley. He showed a map of the sewer network in Addingham pointing out that much of the village is serviced via a combined system where both rainwater and wastewater enter the same pipes. Often, after rainfall the system can't cope with the volume of water and the pumping station becomes overloaded causing untreated effluent to overflow into the river. He then outlined Yorkshire Water's project to reduce the amount of rainwater entering the sewer network using SuDS, or Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, especially the use of leaky water butts to hold back rainwater in wet weather.



A second theme concerned the need to reduce per capita water consumption to guard against droughts which may become more severe in future as well as to decrease abstraction from rivers and protect aquatic wildlife. Currently our water usage is approximately 130 litres per person per day. The Government target is 110 litres per day by 2050. Ways in which tap water usage could be reduced were described including using rainwater from water butts for gardens rather than hosepipes connected to the mains, spending less time in the shower and always filling the dishwasher before running it. A fuller list of tips can be seen here <https://www.climateactionaddingham.info/water/1-reducing-the-use-of-tap-water>