



Up Sewage Creek update 01/04/2025

Much has been going on. Here is a brief update as to what Up Sewage Creek has been up to. It's a lot!

Dates for your diary:

Post People's Assembly Meeting:

Tuesday April 15th 2025

Woodman pub (back room), Coton Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 1DZ

An opportunity to welcome newcomers, explain how our organisation functions, and talk about water and Severn.

Sewage Creek monthly pub meet:

2nd Thursday of the month, 7.30pm, Woodman pub, Coton Hill

Next one 8th May

Reporting back:

Consumer Council for Water (CCW) Ali Bell and Mike Keil from the CCW met with us on the 31st January. The meeting was well attended and very informative. The CCW describe STW as particularly sensitive to bad press because they are FTSE 100 listed.

Source of Severn: on Monday the 10th of February, as close as we could get to Imbolc Seven of us (6 people and a dog), set out across the national border to Plynlimon in Wales. We sought Severn source. It was wonderful! Snow on the top and several people falling into the bog. Severn at source is a bog.

Severn Spirit procession: Several of us have been making Severn Spirit deities for months. It's been fun! We were the river and the river was us. We are very grateful to the Grasshoppers for their spirit making crafting. A small procession on National Rivers Day, 14th March attracted interest for the People's

Assembly and Severn Spirit procession, on World Water Day, 22nd March- where the Severn Spirits flowed together in numbers.

Film: Holy Shit - Can poop save the world?

<https://holyshit.global/watch-holy-shit-now/> film shown by Sara of smpTree at the Unitarian church, Thursday 13th of March. The film was very well attended by around 40 people. The film showed so much common sense it was hard to take in! Let's hope people start getting their heads around this no brainer the sooner the better.

World Water Day: 22 March 2025



Severn Spirit Procession and People's Assembly for Water, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

We started Severn Spirit Procession by English Bridge at 10.30 and flowed through the Saturday town arriving at the theatre about 11.15. We had press interviews.

The Shropshire Star excelled themselves. They couldn't have been more supportive.

We can't say the assembly went without a hitch but it started with a laugh when Claire called Feargal Sharkey Shergal! Read our [report](#) and [Sarah Rozenthuler's article](#) to get the full picture, Up Sewage Creek couldn't have been more pleased with how the event went. We are very grateful to our wonderful speakers, Feargal Sharkey and James Lock of the River Don Project <https://www.theriverdon.org/>. And thank you to the young people from [Media Active](#) who made the haunting film "[Severn Wild](#)" shown between the speakers. The assembly had the support of the town council with Kate Halliday co hosting, and Julia Buckley our MP attended.

Since the assembly, we have sent the report and Sarah Rozenhuler's article to Clive Lewis where it has been very well received. In the debate of Clive's Water Bill on the 28th of March, just after the assembly, there was clearly not much understanding of what constituted a People's Assembly. Our report landed well.

The People's Commission for the water industry (paralleling the government's 'Independent Commission' . The latter is of such limited scope it doesn't consider public ownership. This is one of the main things people want as demonstrated by the assembly). The People's Commission were particularly interested in the top finding of the People's Assembly - better communication between everyone. Public most of all.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fundraiser. We had to find the best part of £1000 for the theatre and clearly people have been very generous. This was our only cost.

Citizen science: having successfully fundraised, we now have the new water testing kits and have sorted out the data plan.



We have more wonderful water testing volunteers. Warren Hastings has trained them and we are back out water testing again. As James Lock said in his talk at the assembly, this is a way of sharing love with our river.

Severn Trent latest: In the wake of Panorama STW have put some effort in to 'engagement' with up sewage creek and have been pushing for details of membership – Claire declined this as we are (at present) a networking interest group and don't have 'members'. Claire and Tim have been withholding the sewage part (48%) of their STW bill for the last three years in an attempt to get some action on STW's unacceptable performance, and there has been mention of potential improvements - but no assurances that could be put in writing. But, something seems to have moved and STW have been in the local press

about investing in Shrewsbury and out in Coton Hill in hoards surveying the state of the current system and installing more monitors. They do seem to be making plans, and had arranged (without talking to us) a consultation event for USC, unfortunately on the same night as the 'Holy Shit' showing. So not sure if calling that off triggered things but STW are now pursuing Claire through the small claims court! Watch this space but legal heroes Leigh Day have prepared Claire a [defence](#) against STW's [claim](#), but STW have escalated by engaging Burges Salmon to act for them – a top tier legal firm charging top tier rates and hoping to pass on costs. Seems like it is very hard for ordinary people to get access to justice!

We do hear that STW are now looking to some sort of community engagement and 22nd April has been mentioned as a date, so again watch this space!

Reporting incidents: Shrewsbury based pollution watch uk <https://pollutionwatch.org.uk> have developed a reporting app to report to e.a water company etc. Pollution watch uk also own and keep all data and over time map will develop. It makes it much easier and quicker to report incidents. Reports accepted at e.a and Welsh, Scottish and northern Irish equivalents. It's a no brainer. Install the app and get reporting. There's plenty to report after all!