

Catchment manager for Scarborough, **Andrew Jackson**, is one of the UK's leading deep sea diver treasure hunters – so it's in his interests to keep the coast he's responsible for clean

LIFE'S A BEACH!
Andrew Jackson

Hidden treasure

THE CATCHMENT MANAGER

ANDREW has been with Yorkshire Water since 1997 and his role means he has direct responsibility for the quality of the place where he spends most of his time – the sea.

As a catchment manager in the Environmental Business Unit Andrew has operational responsibility for an area that extends from Flamborough Head to Staithes. It contains 160 pumping stations and around 80 treatment works – and it's a tough task to maintain the quality of the water in an area that has the extra challenge of a bathing season extending from May to late September.

Andrew's role, together with his team of 16, is making sure the waste water treatment works in his area are both efficient and comply with increasingly tough targets for water quality.

"I love working here, and I have a real passion for the sea – it really is in my blood. It's always been my work too – from when I was a kid selling sea urchins I'd found to tourists, to the job I have now. My work is really tied up with my love of diving, too, as I'm responsible for making sure that this coastline is as clean as it can be."

THE DIVER

"I've been diving for 25 years, since I slipped a disc and thought that diving would keep me active without much heavy lifting.

"I joined Scarborough Sub Aqua club and since then I've dived hundreds of wrecks – around 200 of them had never been dived before. I've also really got into the history behind them. There are some amazing human stories behind every one and I spend a lot of time researching them. The most rewarding find I've made was a diving helmet from around 1880, which people had spent years searching for. I've also found 14 ship's bells, which were thought of as the soul of a ship.

"When you find a new wreck, you see it on the echo sounder. Then you drop a grapple down to the wreck, fasten on and dive, following the rope down. As you descend down through over 50 metres of black water, you don't know what you'll find – then suddenly you see it come up in front of you: that's a feeling that never goes away."

This summer, Andrew will continue diving on a fleet of trawlers sunk by a U-Boat in 1916 off the coast of Scarborough. You can see video clips of Andrew's dives at www.subseatv.com



● Do you have an interesting hobby or activity you are involved in outside work? E-mail the team at connections@yorkshirewater.co.uk with your details and you could be featured in Inside Out.