

Holbeton News Climate Change & Environmental section

Update on the Erme Estuary sewage discharges meeting

There were 3 actions from that meeting that I reported last month:

- To approach SWW through our MP Sir Gary Streeter asking them to join with the parish council in developing an agreed strategic plan.
- John Mildmay-White and his planned Citizens Science group to enhance monitoring in the estuary.
- To approach the other relevant councils asking them to support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Water Quality Group.

A letter has gone to our MP, who has responded saying that he will be happy to approach the CEO of South West Water with our proposal.

Holbeton Parish Council has been in contact with the other councils relating to the Erme and there is to be a meeting to discuss the setting up of a whole river action group.

A further update will come next month.

A community composting facility. The first step will be to identify a suitable location for the facility in the parish.

Life On The Edge Project

Last month I wrote about this project, which hopes to set up a pollinator plan for the parish. We expect to have a list of projects agreed in time for next month's Holbeton News.

As a reminder here is a list of some of the ideas being considered

- Looking at ways to discourage the use of pesticides in gardens and community spaces in the parish.
- Arranging a bug watch during the summer of 2023 in which all residents will be asked to look out for maybe a dozen specific insects, some more rare than others, and report them.
- Approaching the village school to see whether they would like to be involved in the project.
- Training volunteers to undertake regular weekly butterfly watching walks over a 6 month period round the same route they have chosen (so called butterfly transects), to provide information for national datasets.
- Use the LotE project seed harvester to harvest Holbeton wild flower seed to spread on other areas around the parish.

If you wish to learn more or get involved with the LotE project, just contact me or go to the useful links page within the climate change section of the parish council website.

Holbeton Parish Council's Climate Change Meetings

As well as the above, on the agenda for February's parish council climate change subcommittee meeting is a discussion on the possibility of setting up a **public electric car charging station in Holbeton**.

These meetings are held on the first Tuesday in the month (so the 7th February) in the function room of Holbeton Village Hall. These are open meetings, and anyone is welcome to come along. If you wish to be added to the email list of those wishing to be kept in touch on climate change and environmental matters just let me know.

Rethink Climate Change

A great series of programmes is available on BBC iPlayer. These are hosted by Amol Rajan, whose guests help him to think about different aspects of how best we can respond to the climate change crisis, looking with experts at different aspects from the psychology of making changes to financial factors. *Many thanks for this Anna West*

Do have a listen! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08gt1ry/episodes/player>

The screenshot shows the BBC Rethink website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Episodes, Podcast, Rethink on Radio, and Features. Below this is a large blue header with the word 'Episodes' in white. Underneath, there are tabs for 'All', 'Available now (93)', and 'Next on (0)'. The main content area lists five episodes, each with a thumbnail image of a blue face with the word 'RETHINK' written across it, a speaker icon, and a '4' in a circle. The episodes are:

- Leadership**
Rethink Climate
5/5 Are people with power doing enough to solve the climate crisis?
With Amol Rajan.
- Green technology and innovation**
Rethink Climate
4/5 To what extent can technology mitigate the effects climate change?
With Amol Rajan.
- Green economy, money and prosperity**
Rethink Climate
3/5 Amol Rajan explores what moving to a green economy may mean for the way we live and work.
- Behaviour and communication**
Rethink Climate
2/5 What lifestyle habits are we prepared to give up to stop climate change? With Amol Rajan.
- Pledges and progress**
Rethink Climate
1/5 Amol Rajan explores the tension between climate-change aspirations and achievements.

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YCE enters its most exciting year to date.

The team at YCE have certainly been on a long and winding journey to try and secure the local solar farms of Newton Downs and Creacombe into community ownership, it has been prolonged process due to the unprecedented last 3 years we have all faced.

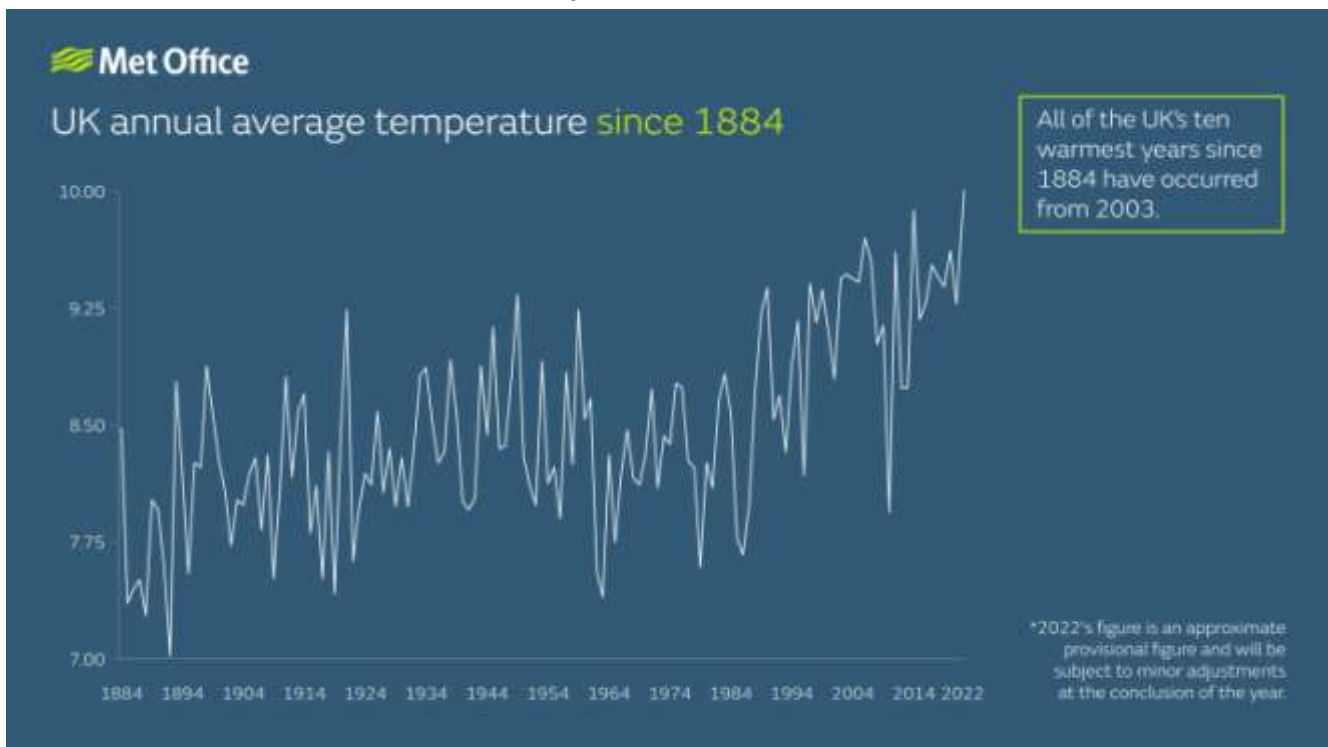
As we enter 2023, we are to embark on the final stages of securing these assets for the benefit of all 5 parishes we serve.

We aim to launch a share offer to our members at the end of this summer, and over the next two months there will be another community benefit round of grant funding open for applications.

We would like to thank all of our members and supporters who have been on this journey with us, and encourage new members to join if you are interested in investing in the local solar farms.

It costs just £1 to join YCE, and details can be found on our website at www.yealmenergy.co.uk We would be delighted to have you with us on this exciting renewable energy journey.

2022 – The UK’s warmest year on record



To read more detail, click [here](#)

or go to <https://blog.metoffice.gov.uk/2022/12/30/cold-december-concludes-warmest-year-on-record-for-uk/>

Tip of the month: Ways To Reduce Your Heating Bill

- Lowering the heating temperature on a condensing boiler to 60°C or below can cut a bill by around 8%. For a step by step guide see Moneysavingboilerchallenge.com
- Some combi boilers have a hot water preheat function – find it and turn it off.
- If you have a hot water tank then insulate pipework to it and reduce the hot water temperature to the lowest workable setting.
- If you have a combi boiler and you need to mix cold water with your hot then save money by turning the temperature down.
- Flow restrictors on taps, and a low-flow shower head can reduce hot water usage.
- Homes lose heat through air leakage – identify where cold air is getting in using the smoke from an incense stick, or just by feeling with your hand. Common culprits are around windows and doors, and open fires. You can buy draughtproofing seals at DIY stores, unused open fires can be closed off with a “chimney balloon” or a “chimney sheep”, heat shrink glazing film can be applied to windows, you could make an old-fashioned fabric “draught-dog” to reduce the draught at the bottom of doors.
- Turn the heating down (but not off) in unused rooms.
- Dress warmly - hat, scarf, jumper, extra leggings, warm feet.
- If you cannot afford to turn your heating on then you might be able to afford to warm yourself with an electric blanket. Consider using an electric blanket if sitting.
- Making one room really cosy can allow you to have the rest of the house colder.
- Turning down the main thermostat a degree or two can save a lot of money over a year.
- Thickening curtains or DIY insulated shutters can retain more heat. Use them strategically - leave shut to the North, and open to the South when the sun is out to warm your home.

Households with vulnerable people should take a cautious approach to these measures so as not to compromise health.

Helpful Resources

Sdce.org.uk - South Dartmoor Community Energy carry out home energy assessments and come to various drop-in events (including 18th February 2023, 10-12noon Yealmpton Community Room at YCA, Stray Park, PL8 2HF: **FREE TO ATTEND**). **0800 112 3044**

South Dartmoor Community Energy

Domestic Heating Advice and Support

FREE to attend
Saturday 18th February 2023
10-12 noon
Yealmpton Community Room at YCA, Stray Park, PL8 2HF

Join Yealmpton Environment Group and South Dartmoor Community Energy advisor Chris Bunce to discuss:

- Practical solutions for energy saving.
- Guidance and support available (SDCE/LEAP).
- Financial opportunities/initiatives in the current funding landscape.
- Retrofit – what is it? what are the potential benefits?
- Future opportunities.

Any specific questions on domestic heating can be emailed ahead to environment@yealmpton-pc.gov.uk

Southhams.gov.uk/Reduce-Fuel-Bills - saving money, access to grant funded home improvements for low income households, and loans from Lendology CIC

Dsfire.gov.uk/safety/home/home-safety-visits - The Fire & Rescue Service free home safety visits are helpful and a good point of contact for vulnerable households. **0800 05 02 999**

Devoncommunities.org.uk/services/devon-oil-collective Devon Oil collective - group buying to reduce the purchase price of heating oil. **01392 248919**

Shune Nightingale, Sustainable South Hams