

# Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change Subcommittee update

**The River Erme.** If you follow the Holbeton Village Community Facebook group you will know that in 2020 there were 175 occasions when untreated sewage from the treatment plant serving Holbeton discharged into the River Erme (visit <https://www.theriverstrust.org/>)? It appears that for some years the treatment plant has not had the capacity to handle the village's waste. The problem is by no means unique to this river or village. The parish council is looking at how we can best tackle the problem. It will not be easy.

**The parish environmental library** is now installed in the Reading Rooms, and its books are available to borrow. Monday mornings are the best time, combined with a cup of coffee should you wish. Do use the library books: there are plenty to choose from! Each month we are highlighting one of the available books.

This month it is the classic book **Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson**. First published in 1962 it is considered by many to be one of the most influential environmental books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the USA President Kennedy ordered his science committee to examine the issues the book raised, and as a result, DDT was eventually banned. It is still in print, its message sadly still very relevant today.

**Holbeton Bird Boxes** in beautiful green oak are now in place.



**A big thank you to everyone who told me of your sightings of early purple orchids.** As a result I have been able to pinpoint sightings at 10 locations around the parish, ranging from a solitary orchid flower spike to nearly 100, a total of 187 flower spikes in all!

These beautiful flowers are among the first to flower in spring, and this year they seem exceptionally abundant and later to come into flower than usual.

We are documenting all the known roadside locations to help ensure they are not disturbed (I am sure that you would not be tempted to pick any!) and to notify those responsible for managing our verges.

The plan is to make them aware of the locations and how best to protect them and other native flower species.

Look out for the **Environmental Tip of the Month**, this month on washing your clothes.

**Holbeton Climate Change and Eco Group Facebook Page** is where to share ideas and tips for making our parish a greener place! Please do join in and share your thoughts and ideas.

**Do join the Holbeton Climate Change Forum!** This is an informal group interested in projects and ideas to support the environment. Members can suggest projects and also volunteer to be part of initiatives. It is open to everyone of whatever age. If you are interested in being part of the forum please contact [annawest123@gmail.com](mailto:annawest123@gmail.com).

**To find our Environmental Action Plan**, simply Google 'Holbeton Parish Council', access the Climate Emergency page, scroll down and open the pdf file called "Action Plan v3".

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