

# Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change Subcommittee update



**The River Erme estuary.** A big thank you to all those who signed the letter to our local MP, Sir Gary Streeter. By the time you read this it will have been delivered to him with well over 100 signatures: not bad for a parish with an estimated adult population of 456 (2019 UK ONS\* estimate).

The Environment Agency (EA) has now published its annual report on all the 9 water and sewerage companies in England including **South West Water**. You have probably heard that Southern Water have been fined £90 million for deliberately dumping billions of litres of raw sewage off north Kent and Hampshire coasts to avoid costs and penalties.

In the EA report, Southern Water had the second worst record of pollution incidents into rivers in 2020. Guess which company had the worst record last year? **South West Water**, with almost 30% more incidents, and 70% more serious incidents than Southern! Despite this it achieved 2 stars (out of a possible 4) along with Southern Water. It has been a company “requiring improvement” since 2016 and has never had more than 2 stars, with the lowest (**red**) rating for pollution incidents every year in the last decade.

**The EA needs us to report any incident that we see.**

Their contact numbers are: **0800 80 70 60**, the national 24 hour hotline, and **0344 346 2020** for South West Water Wastewater incidents. Take a photograph if possible. Even if you receive little or no feedback your report is important to help them build up evidence for action.

**The book of the month is The Garden Jungle**, or Gardening to Save the Planet, by Dave Goulson. He is an amusing, knowledgeable and enthusiastic teacher, full of tips on how to be a green gardener. This lovely book is available to borrow from the Reading Rooms on Monday mornings.

Also look out for the **Environmental Tip of the Month**, this month on the 3 ‘P’ approach to using our toilets, adapted by Gilly Bray from a piece written by Liz Hitchins, Parish Council Chair in Brixton.

On your way to browse the environmental library, do make a point of admiring **the wildflower area outside the Reading Rooms**.

**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.

**Do join the Holbeton Climate Change Forum!** This is an informal group interested in projects and ideas to support the environment. If you are interested in being part of the forum please contact [annawest123@gmail.com](mailto:annawest123@gmail.com). **We need your help and enthusiasm!**

**Our Environmental Action Plan** has been updated in last month’s parish council meeting. To find it Google ‘Holbeton Parish Council’, access the Climate Emergency page, scroll down and open the pdf file called “Action Plan”.