

Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change Subcommittee update

The River Erme estuary pollution. The final tally for signatures to the letter sent to our local MP Sir Gary Streeter was around 150, one third of all the adult residents of the parish!

We have now had replies from both South West Water and the Environment Agency. The parish council is arranging a public meeting with Rhidian Howells, Waste Water Services Operations Manager from South West Water. He will be coming to answer our questions and update us on their 'Green Recovery' plans.

We are sorting out an agreed date for this. Look out for more details from the parish council website, posters in the village and on the local facebook pages. Do come if you can!

We are also recruiting volunteers to help doing water tests at agreed locations down the Erme estuary in collaboration with the Westcountry Rivers Trust. The parish council will pay for the test kits and as these tests only need to be carried out monthly you would not have to do much individually. All volunteers will be trained – it's simple to do! Ring or email me to sign up.

A reminder: **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.

Also remember to stick to the 3 'P' approach to using our toilets as in last month's Holbeton News. If it hasn't been through you... please don't put it down the loo (except loo paper).

The triangle at Lusson Cross. The recent botanical survey of Cross Park, the field on the left at the top of Church Hill, has confirmed the special nature of the triangle at its entrance. Unfortunately, Devon County Council has now had the verge there (and elsewhere) cut, with some damage to the neighbouring village sign, a green fibreoptic box and the bank down to the village. It also means that Betony seed cannot be collected for propagating this year.

The Parish Council has reported this to DCC and is taking action to ensure that this does not happen again. Creating an ecological approach to managing hedgerows and verges was one of the reasons for undertaking the surveys. It is disappointing that this has occurred despite having reported the early purple orchid findings at Lusson Cross and elsewhere to DCC ecologists with a request to confirm with Devon Highways of the special nature of the verge.

The book of the month is The Secret Lives of Cows, by Rosamund Young.

The author is the latest generation on the family organic dairy farm. Cows are as varied as people - they can be highly intelligent or slow to understand, vain, considerate, proud, shy or inventive. You will never look at cows the same way after reading this book!

Also look out for the **Environmental Tip of the Month**, this month on recycling by Chris Bray. Why do it, where do our recycled materials go?

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. **We need your help and enthusiasm!**

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