

Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change Subcommittee update

A dedicated environmental section of Holbeton News. For a period of one year Holbeton Parish Council is sponsoring 4 pages of this magazine to further its climate change and environmental commitments.

The money will come from payments each year by the Gnaton estate to 3 parishes for the Creacombe solar farm. This was part of a 'section 106' agreement with South Hams District Council. Holbeton Parish Council chose to use its share to further its environmental action plan (details of which are on the parish council website).

This will include an extract (with permission) of Greenpeace's Guide To Life (also available via a link on the climate change page 'useful links' of the parish website), a 'tip of the month' (when we have one) and a regular report from Yealm Community Energy.

If you have any environmental articles that you wish to publish in Holbeton News, these will also be welcomed.

A local project to support wild birds through this winter following the stopping of the Flete estate pheasant shoot is being supported by the parish council's environmental fund. In return Joe Clarke is organising two early morning bird watching guided walks next spring.

By the time you read this the public meeting on **the sewage problem in the Erme estuary** will have happened. A report on the meeting will be included next month.

A new draft EV charging strategy has been published online by Devon County Council (<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/devon-electric-vehicle-charging-strategy/>). A copy of the link is on the parish council website: On the homepage, click on the 'information' icon and it is the second link. If you wish to have your say the consultation closes on the 16th December.



Now that the free garden waste collections have stopped the parish council is looking at possible options for a **community composting** facility. I have not received any expressions of interest in setting up and running something within the parish, but am still looking for potential volunteers. South Hams District Council will provide start up support.

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Yealm Community Energy offers some keeping warm tips to save energy.

Autumn is delivering us exceptionally mild days and still good sunshine for the solar farms.

As we enter a very difficult winter with rising fuel, food and energy costs we hope some of our keeping warm tips may help you.

1. Heat yourself rather than the whole house.
2. Pull on a warm jumper or fleece, pull on an extra pair of socks or fluffy slippers.
3. Hug a hot water bottle whilst you work from home, or in the evening whilst watching TV, or wrap yourself in a blanket or both. Just pull it down when you are on Zoom!
4. Hot drinks warm you and your hands!
5. Let the sun shine in by day and then close your curtains at dusk to not lose the heat.
6. Insulate wherever you can within the house. Plug those draughty gaps around doors and windows. Ideally, loft insulation should be at 270mm. If affordable, cavity wall insulation and under floor insulation too will make a big difference.
7. Turn radiators off in empty rooms and tuck your curtains in behind your radiators.

www.yealmenergy.co.uk

Environmental “Tip of the Month” December 2022

Disposing of paint and paint solvents safely.

Pollution caused by discharging harmful substances into our foul sewerage systems is very topical at the moment and there are laws regulating this practice.

We know that we have to be careful not to put harmful or toxic substances down our drains. Decorating paints and paint thinners are considered to be hazardous waste that could pose a risk to our health, the health of wildlife, and damaging to the environment.

Some of the chemicals contained in paint can persist through water treatment plants and end up discharged back into surface and groundwater which eventually flows into rivers and into the sea. Micro paint particles that end up in our seas can be more harmful to marine life than micro plastics. This is not only a concern for fish but also for those animals – including humans – who consume fish, as these harmful chemicals can bioaccumulate.

So paint and paint thinners should only ever be disposed of in a safe manner – not down our drains!

What can we do?

Reduce paint consumption (the most environmentally friendly choice!).

Re-use: unwanted paint could be re-used locally – offer it to neighbours/the community etc.

Although a long way away, re-use facilities are also available in Chagford, West Devon - [Community RePaint](#).

Otherwise if at the recycling centre and the tin contains sufficient paint of a standard which may be used by others, please bring this to the attention of the operator.

With used paint thinner/brush cleaner, allow the paint to settle at the bottom of the container for a few weeks. Pour the thinner into a clean container and re-use. Wrap the remaining paint solids in double plastic and take to the recycling centre for disposal.

Recycle: Devon County Council provides facilities at Ivybridge recycling centre to handle hazardous waste produced by householders. This includes free disposal of reasonable quantities of old paint, to a maximum of 5 litres.

There is no limit on empty metal or plastic paint pots (and no need to wrap empty pots in plastic). Recycle empty metal cans via the Metals skip.

Water based paint

- Dispose of small quantities of water based paint by spreading the paint onto cardboard and allowing it to air dry. Once dry paint solids/cleaning equipment/wipes/rags etc should be put in the general waste (grey) bin at home.
- When washing brushes, trays and other items that have been used with water based paints, always use a drain that is connected to a sewerage treatment plant, **not** a surface water system.

Oil based paint

- Always use water based paints where possible.
- Oil based paint cannot be dried like water based paint, and should not be put into the general waste.
- Used tins still containing paint should be double wrapped in plastic bags and taken to the recycling centre. They are then incinerated.



DB, Holbeton PC Climate Change sub Committee.

Shopping

There's power in every purchase you make. The things you buy show companies what people want so if demand goes up for better products that are good for the planet, they'll stop making the bad ones! Time to spend wisely.



★ Buy staples like rice and pulses in bulk to save money and reduce packaging.

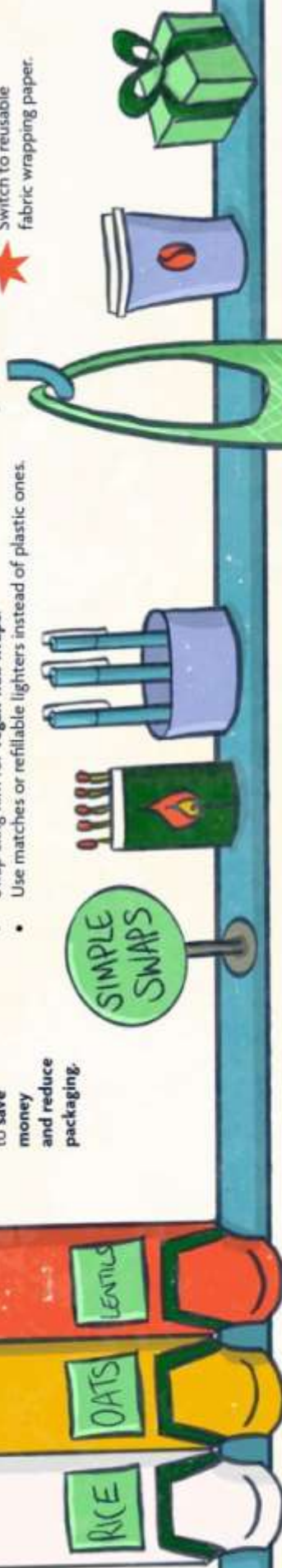
★ Simple swaps

- Ask for **digital receipts** instead of printed ones.
- Replace single-use pens with **refillable** ones.
- Swap cling film for **vegan wax wraps**.
- Use matches or refillable lighters instead of plastic ones.



★ Always carry your own **reusable bags and coffee cup**.

★ Switch to reusable fabric wrapping paper.



★ Ditch fast fashion and opt for secondhand clothes or arrange a clothes swap with friends.

★ Homemade gifts always go down a treat. Try making jam, chutney, banana bread or cookies instead of giving loved ones shop-bought presents.

★ Try fixing things by searching for **online tutorials** instead of buying a replacement.

★ Avoid styrofoam food containers and **bring your own tupperware** if collecting takeaways.

★ Learn how supermarkets can cut their plastic packaging in half by 2025.

★ When shopping, always ask yourself: 'Do I really need this?' Questioning your spending habits is a great way to save money and avoid impulse buys.

★ **CHANGE THE SYSTEM!** Despite scientific evidence and mounting public pressure, UK supermarkets are putting more plastic on their shelves than ever. Join nearly two million people calling on them to ditch pointless plastic packaging.