

Holbeton News Climate Change & Environment

Tip of The Month: Recycling Hearing Aids (Karen Flower)

When faced recently with the task of recycling three pairs of hearing aids I was surprised to find this would not be as straightforward as I had expected.

The Audiology Department at Derriford Hospital is very helpful and will take back NHS hearing aids and send them to charity. Wherever possible the donated hearing aids are repaired, refurbished and sent overseas for re-use in developing countries.

However, when I tried to recycle some non-NHS hearing aids I was surprised at just how difficult this is. Some suppliers of non-NHS hearing aids (such as Specsavers) do not have recycling facilities and I was simply told to 'put them in the bin'. Privately purchased hearing aids cost anything up to three thousand five hundred pounds which makes this a huge waste of valuable resources as well as increasing unnecessary waste going to landfill. Importantly too, it denies adults and children in developing countries the gift of hearing as many do not have access to hearing tests or hearing aids.

This prompted me to try to find a charity to which I could donate the non-NHS hearing aids. UK Veterans Hearing Foundation, <https://www.veteranshearing.org.uk/> will accept some non-NHS models but not all. The charity services the donated hearing aids and then gives them to UK veterans, many of whom have impaired hearing or hearing loss due to their military service. There is an extensive list of hearing aid models the charity is able to accept and repurpose but do check the list because not all hearing aids can be recycled by this charity.

The Lions Club also has a hearing aid recycling scheme to provide affordable hearing aids for hard-of-hearing individuals who have limited resources or for people living in developing countries who would not otherwise have access to hearing equipment. <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/explore-our-clubs/eyeglasses-and-hearing-aids-recycling>.



Adults and children with hearing impairment whose lives have been transformed after receiving recycled hearing equipment from Lions Club

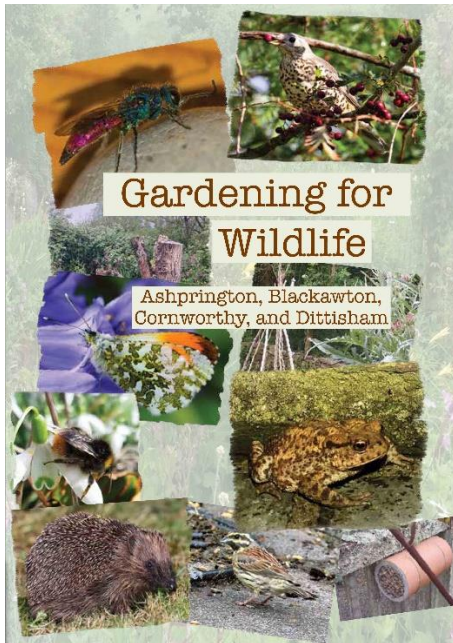
live in countries throughout South America and Africa, in India, and in many countries in south east Asia.

Latest figures show that approximately 1.5 million hearing aids are dispensed each year in the UK (both NHS and private) often replacing previously issued, older hearing aids. If you have hearing aids that you no longer use but are not sure what to do with, it would be worth considering recycling them via a charity as they could be a huge benefit to someone living with hearing impairment or hearing loss. It would, of course, have the added benefit of reducing unnecessary waste going to incineration.

Gardening for Wildlife

The parish council is planning to circulate an excellent 32 page booklet full of gardening tips to encourage wildlife.

This was created by a local organisation, The Habitat Group (<http://thehabitatgroup.uk/>). Its membership is drawn mainly from the parishes of Asprington, Blackawton, Cornworthy and Dittisham.



It has been distributed to every household in these parishes free of charge. It has been produced and distributed by volunteers and all the photos, illustrations and articles provided by local members, the booklet itself edited and produced by a professional publisher.

The first printing was for just 850 copies but as other voluntary organisations and parishes got involved some 10,000 copies have now been distributed across 15 plus parishes, each organisation sourcing its own funding from grants, usually from Parish, Town or County Councils.

We are collaborating with other neighbouring parishes in order to reduce printing costs.

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News from the Verto Homes development

After the failed attempt to install the new surface water drain last month there is as yet (18th March) no news as to when the work will restart.

As Church Hill is due to be closed from the 29th April for up to 6 weeks to install an electricity cable it does not seem at all likely that the drain work will be rescheduled before the end of that task.

South West Water are planning to investigate the Church Hill road drain system. If possible we would like this to form part of the separation of surface water from the combined system, thereby reducing storm discharges from the Holbeton Water Treatment Works.

Energy Saving Retrofit Guide

Are you thinking about extending your home or making it more energy efficient? A local organisation, Energy Saving Devon, has published a useful looking free guide, the Devon Energy Retrofit Guide, available on their website, <https://www.energysavingdevon.org.uk/>.

Section 106 environmental fund

Recent grants from this fund include £3,000 towards the cost of insulating the remaining flat roofs over the village hall still to be replaced.

We have had feedback from Orchard Farm on the s106 grant towards the provision of winter bird food to cover the gap between the end of the pheasant shoot and the implementation of crops to provide for winter bird feed. Many thanks to Joe Clarke...

“We are coming to the end of the Winter Hungry Gap for birds again this winter and, fortunately, spring is nearly upon us.

At the farm we have implemented another year of Winter bird food provision by providing standing crops of winter seed and also the supplementary seed which we place in the farmland feeder bins.



We put on an extra event this year called Farmland Bird in the Hand which was overbooked and a tremendous day out for all involved. This somewhat trumps even a Dawn Chorus walk as people got to hold the birds and learn about them right up close, rather than just listening to their

calls and seeing them at a distance. The licensed ecologists were ringing and recording data and the children took turns to release them.

We also did an extra event where volunteers came along to build some Starling and Bat boxes as part of the wider scheme of projects we are implementing across the farm.

We are organising another Dawn Chorus Bird Walk for Spring this year and I will advertise the date once I have agreed it with the ecologist.

We also plan to increase our portfolio of events and workshops at the farm and are undertaking specific training and plan to link with schools going forward.”



Harry Baumer 18th March 2024 01752 830274, harryluson@gmail.com



Yealm Community Energy 2024 Community Fund round is closing on 21st April!

If you have an environmental project that would benefit from match funding please note applications for YCE's Community Benefit fund close on 21st April 2024.

After the closing date all applications are submitted to our independent committee for review, visits to projects are made, then the committee write to applicants with their final decision. Awards are usually made in early June. Previous year's grantees must submit their impact reports in time for YCE's AGM in mid - late June.

We look forward to receiving any final applications.

Details can be found on www.yealmenergy.co.uk

Closing date for applications is 21st April 2024.

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