

## **Report from Hilary Bastone – (My March notes for Parish Councils)**

### **THIS MONTH'S TOPICS**

**UK Emergency Alert Service launched – test taking place on 23 April 2023**

**The Big Help Out**

**New Chair Takes the Helm for South Devon AONB Partnership**

**Waste Update**

**Careers Fair Success**

**Wild About Devon Grants**

**New Local Electric Charging Points**

**Garden Waste Update**

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### **THIS MONTH'S TOPICS IN MORE DETAIL:-**

**UK Emergency Alert Service launched – test taking place on 23 April 2023**

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system is now live.

The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding.

The Emergency Alerts system will allow the government to get urgent messages quickly to nearly 90 percent of mobile phones in a defined area. A UK-wide alerts test will take place in the early evening of 23 April, which will see people receive a test message on their mobile phones.

Your mobile phone or tablet may:

Make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent.

Vibrate

Read out the alert.

The sound and vibration will last for about ten seconds.

It is important to note:

Alerts will only ever come from the government or emergency services, and they will issue a warning, the details of the area impacted, and instructions about how best to respond.

Emergency Alerts will be used very rarely – only being sent where there is an immediate risk to people's lives – so people may not receive an alert for months, or even years.

Initial use will focus on the most serious severe weather-related incidents, including severe flooding in England.

Alerts are secure, free to receive, and one-way. They do not reveal anyone's location or collect personal data.

If you don't have a mobile phone and in the event of an emergency, you will be informed via other channels such as TV and radio.

For more information visit: [www.gov.uk/alerts](http://www.gov.uk/alerts)

Please share this information, including details of the test on 23 April, within your communities.

## **The Big Help Out**

The Big Help Out is encouraging us all to roll up our sleeves and volunteer in the local area on Monday 8 May to celebrate the King's Coronation.

This is a great opportunity to reflect on the legacy of His Majesty's service and showcase the impact of volunteering within communities.

Residents can visit the Big Help Out website to find out how they can lend a hand within the South Hams this May. This event is a great way to get involved in the local community and meet like-minded people!

Please promote these opportunities around your communities. There is something for everyone to get involved in from lending a hand to improve a village green to helping the Ramblers keep our public footpaths in action.

It is also a great way to promote volunteering opportunities available in your communities. Organisations can register with The Big Help Out to be matched with willing local volunteers.

## **New Chair Takes the Helm for South Devon AONB Partnership**

The South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership has elected a new chair, Peter Sandover, to champion the protected landscape.

He succeeds John Green, who has held the post for the past four years. Peter has been a member of the partnership for several years as representative for voluntary organisations.

AONB Manager Roger English said: "I would like to welcome Peter to this vital chair role, which ensures that the importance of the protected landscape to conservation and wellbeing is fully understood and supported."

“The AONB is one of the finest in the country and a major draw to visitors and residents alike. I am confident Peter has the expertise to lead the partnership, as AONBs await the Government’s response to The Glover Landscapes Review consultation and are shortly to be rebranded as National Landscapes.”

Retiring chair John Green was thanked for his four years of dedication and presented with a framed picture of handmade glass bugs, created by staff member Nicky Bailey.

John said: “Peter has many years of relevant experience and the enthusiasm that will enable him to guide the partnership, engage with local communities and raise the profile of the South Devon AONB.”

## **Waste Update**

The new South Hams garden waste collection service went live. All residents that have subscribed will receive their first collections within two weeks of 6 March.

Our Operations team have been instrumental to the planning and preparation of this service including driving the rounds prior to going live.

At the end of Thursday we had visited 4,700 subscribed properties and only had 22 missed collections reported by the public, which for the first week of a new service is a fantastic achievement.

We are encouraging residents to check their garden waste collection day as it may be on a different day to their refuse and recycling by visiting [www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday).

We currently have 11,276 garden waste subscriptions, so on target for the predicted 25% take up rate, we anticipate that this will increase once the growing season begins.

Residents have asked us:

Q: "Where does the sticker we've received need to be fixed to on the bin?"

A: The sticker should be fixed to the outside / top of the lid so it's visible when the lid is fully shut, or to the front of your garden waste bin, so it's visible for our crews when the bin is presented for collection.

Please do not fix the sticker to your refuse bin as this will not help the correct crews.

For any missed collections please report through our website - <https://waste.southhams.gov.uk/missedcollection>

Please signpost residents to report other issues through our 'Report It' page [www.southhams.gov.uk/report](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/report), please select Litter for street cleaning requests.

For more information, visit: [www.southhams.gov.uk/service-update](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/service-update), residents can also contact us by ‘Contact the Waste Team’

## **Careers Fair Success**

As part of delivering our Organisational Development Plan to attract younger people into the organisation, we attended the Dartmoor Multi Agency Trust Careers Fair on Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 March with a stand representing our organisations, and it has been an enormous success.

The event covered Holsworthy School, Oakhampton College and Tavistock College and involved years 9 to 13 and saw 600 students per year pass through the Fair (with fewer sixth form students).

Over the two days we talked to hundreds of students promoting the opportunities and range of jobs at our Councils. What was evident from talking to students of all ages, is the interest in apprenticeships so that's something we will focus on in more detail at future events.

We also gave two presentations to Years 12 and 13 on the second day (sixth formers) representing the 'World of Work' alongside apprenticeship and academic talks, and again highlighted the variety of roles within our organisation and the benefits of working for local government.

We are going to build on this very positive start and we are exploring other events that we can attend across our areas, to raise our profile with the schools and students, and also other organisations with whom we can work to promote these opportunities.

### **Wild About Devon Grants**

Grants of up to £500 are available for Devon community wildlife projects.

The Wild About Devon grant scheme is open for new applications, having been extended following from a successful first round.

The aim of this grant scheme is to provide an easy way for community groups to access small amounts of funding to start a wildlife group or carry out activities that promote wildlife. Funds can be used for advice, equipment and other resources.

### **New Local Electric Charging Points**

Scottish Power have recently commissioned some further electric charging points within our car parks. Electric Charging Points are now available at the following car parks:

Glanvilles Mill car park, Ivybridge (Highways England)

Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth

Creek car park, Salcombe

Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury

Pavilions car park, Totnes

Victoria Street car park, Totnes

Quay car park, Kingsbridge

Awaiting installation/commissioning are:

Fore Street car park, Kingsbridge

Park & Ride car park, Dartmouth

Further works are required to paint the EV bays and this will be carried out in due course. In the meantime, all these sites are available for use by the public.

### **Garden Waste Update**

The new South Hams garden waste collection service first collections will take place within two weeks of 6 March.

Our teams have been creating the new collection rounds based on the subscriptions we've already received, allowing us to deliver a high quality and reliable service for our residents.

As this is a new service, it may mean that a resident's garden waste bin is collected on a different day to their refuse and recycling. Residents can now check which day their collections will take place online - visit [www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday).

Please note that the garden waste service starts on the 6 March so any collection dates shown online prior to this date should be ignored.

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For more information, visit: [www.southhams.gov.uk/service-update](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/service-update). Residents can also contact us by 'Contact the waste team'.