

**County & District Councillor's Monthly Report Cllr. Jacqi Hodgson - Date: April & May 2026**  
**Devon County Councillor for Totnes & Dartington**  
**Cabinet Member for Climate & Biodiversity (incl. Public Transport)**  
**(division incl. Harberton, Harbertonford, Staverton, Landscope & part of Berry Pomeroy)**  
**South Hams District Councillor for Dartington & Staverton**  
**SHDC Executive Portfolio Councillor for Waste and Composting**

**Devon County Council (DCC) key issues:**

**DCC has announced an additional £3 Million boost for Devon's Roads.** Following one of the toughest winters in recent memory, Devon County Council has approved further funding to tackle the surge in potholes and weather-related damage across the network. This extra investment will help accelerate:

- Reactive pothole repairs
- Winter gritting
- Storm-recovery works
- Emergency coastal responses in areas such as Slapton, Torcross and Beesands

This sits alongside major planned investment for 2026–27, including:

£36+ million for highways maintenance

£100+ million for preventative works

All aimed at increasing the long-term resilience of Devon's 8,000-mile road network.

**National ALARM Survey 2026. What It Means for Local Communities**

The **Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) Survey**, is produced independently by the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA), who gather data from local councils responsible for highway maintenance and highlights increasing pressures on the road network nationwide. The ALARM Survey helps set the national context for the challenges we face here in Devon, highlighting the growing gap between what is required to maintain roads properly and the funding available to do so

**Key 2026 findings:**

- Only **51%** of local roads are in "good" condition (Devon sits just below at **49%**).
- **1 in 6 roads** has less than five years of life remaining.
- **1.9 million** potholes filled nationally last year with **47,800 (131 per day)** repaired in Devon alone.
- The South West's maintenance backlog has grown to **£2.9bn**, with Devon's share exceeding **£400m**.
- Despite a **17% national budget increase in 2025-26**, the funding gap continues to widen.

**DCC are currently repairing 2,500 potholes per week.**

**Crisis & Resilience fund - £1.3M for help with home heating increased costs.** This will be administered by District Councils, i.e. SHDC covers this division from June onwards

**Public Transport services in the County transferred from DCC to the new Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA) on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026.** The governance arrangements for the new Transport Authority remain unaltered. This means that the public transport support element of the government funding will now be held by DTCCA

**Changes to Bus services: Further to the confirmation of Core funding support, some mainly minor changes were made to bus services across Devon with effect from April 5<sup>th</sup> '26.** There has been some controversy, but this has been mainly due to the withdrawal of some additional services that were funded under the government's Bus Service Enhancement Fund (BSEF) to encourage people back onto buses after COVID.

**90 new EV (Electric) buses will come into Devon by the end of next year** – I'm pressing for these to be prioritised for delivery into locations with an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). There are 4 AQMAs in Devon Incl. Totnes.

**Devon Libraries public consultation.** The Cabinet Member and County Leader took a tour of the Public Libraries across the county during the consultation. I joined them at Totnes. There was over 25K responses. A report is coming to Council in May.

**Parish Highways Handbook** – This 70-page guide has been developed by the County Councillor for Salcombe, where there is a strong track record of local (volunteer) Road Wardens supporting their Parish Council. A Highways Assembly took place (today) on 6<sup>th</sup> May at Follaton which was supported by a panel of DCC Highways team and was well attended by road wardens and some Councillors. This meeting provided a briefing and responses to a number of questions which had been raised about the guide. In my opinion the guide is pretty comprehensive and provides a series of useful links and explanations of the many terms used in highways repairs etc. Having been delivered as a Lib Dem document, it has raised some queries and this is likely to be addressed. Some additional points were raised about other useful information and links that can be added in and these will be reviewed before a further copy is to be distributed more widely. Copy of V1 circulated with this report.

**Pavement Parking.** DCC has been notified of the change of regulations that will allow Local Authorities to administer fines for pavement parking. Brief addendum – the national story [Pavement parking fines incoming across England with councils handed enforcement powers under new law | This is Money](#)  
However: It's likely that Devon County Council won't have these powers until at least the end of 2026.

**DCC Cabinet 11.03.26 Biodiversity Duty Report to DEFRA (Government).** I presented this report to Cabinet for approval for submission. The Biodiversity Duty Report is required to meet the Council's statutory duties under the Environment Act 2021 to report on actions taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity. It marked the first reporting period from January 2024 to December 2025 and documented current policies and strategies, provided highlights of progress, and noted proposed future actions. Future Biodiversity Duty Reports will be required every five years. This interesting report is available at this link:  
<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s54615/Appendix%201%20-%20Biodiversity%20Duty%20Report%202024-25.pdf>

**DCC Cabinet 08.04.26 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was endorsed.** The LNRS comprises two statutory components presented as online-only documents. The first is a statement of biodiversity priorities, which identifies the key habitats, species and ecological networks where action is required to support nature recovery and wider environmental benefits. The second is a local habitat map, which identifies areas of particular importance for biodiversity and areas where action could be prioritised to restore or create wildlife-rich habitat and improve ecological connectivity. In Devon, these statutory elements were presented through a [website](#) and [interactive mapping tool](#).

The Strategy highlights a number of strategic priorities. These included restoring and expanding priority habitats such as wetlands, species-rich grasslands, heathlands, woodlands and coastal and estuarine habitats, improving river and catchment connectivity, and strengthening ecological networks to support species movement and climate adaptation. A strong emphasis is placed on action in the wider landscape, recognising that existing designated sites alone are insufficient to reverse nature's decline.

Implementation of the LNRS is enabling rather than regulatory and will also inform the development and implementation of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans and guide how developers are required to meet their Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) responsibilities. It will further inform the targeting of funding and delivery mechanisms.

## Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services (CIRS) Scrutiny Committee. 25.03.26. Broadband update

The Committee discussed a report regarding the re-opened Gigabit Voucher Scheme to increase broadband coverage across Devon and particularly in rural and hard to reach areas. This referred to how connectivity was increasingly essential for all aspects of everyday life for all, as well as reducing isolation and improving wellbeing. There have been discussions with Devon's MP's and a request for a ministerial meeting to address the significant impact of poor connectivity on Devon's communities, as a large rural county.

The Report set out the current levels of connectivity and work being undertaken to promote the need for a rural broadband policy to support improved connectivity in rural communities and reduce the risk that many premises in Devon could remain unserved. The report considered the role of local members to support the collaboration of suppliers and communities to develop community-based schemes.

The Committee resolved that Cabinet be requested to review the legal and equality implications of current national broadband policy, with regard to the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010, and escalate these concerns to national government to request that national policy be reviewed to address the unequal impacts on rural and hard-to-reach communities and ensure that broadband schemes are delivered consistently, rather than a stop-start approach, and that the Committee establish a Task and Finish group to monitor the delivery of the broadband voucher scheme. This is the link to the report:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s54805/Broadband%20-%20Community%20Voucher%20Scheme%20Opportunity%20-%20Committee%20Report.pdf>

### Local matters;

#### **Dementia Friendly District: offer to attend and provide introduction to Parish Councils: SHDC & DCC.**

*Cllr Victor Abbott has circulated the following: "I would be willing to accompany you to a Parish Council of your choice and, with the permission of the Council, talk about Being Dementia Friendly. I'm thinking of, say, 10 minutes and addressing the items as stated:*

- . A simple self-learning session - suggesting a simple Alzheimer's Society video;*
- . Signage for their hall and for the village - with examples from Cornwood, Ivybridge and South Brent;*
- . Motion to Council - due to the costs of signage and other things;*
- . The Herbert Protocol - for pre-emptive care for those known to them in the Parish.*

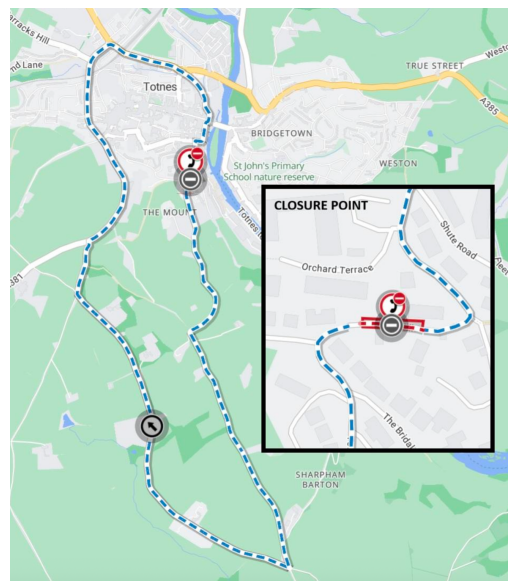
*Following this one example, perhaps you would take a similar message to your other Parishes. By such a practice, we may be able to work more successfully towards being a Dementia Friendly District Council."*

**Please let me know or contact Cllr Abbott directly to arrange this for one of your PC meetings**

### Road works:

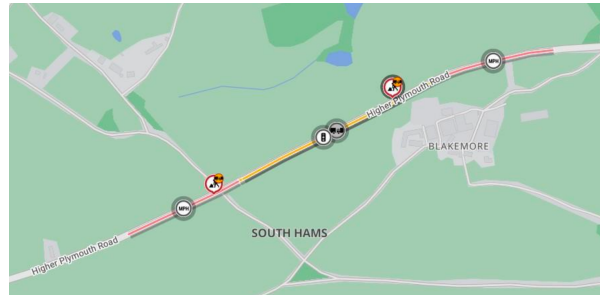
#### **Temporary Traffic Notice - MOAT HILL, Totnes (TTRO2669282)**

**TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL** hereby give **NOTICE** that: On **TUESDAY 21 JULY 2026** for a maximum of 5 days. Anticipated Finish **TUESDAY 21 JULY 2026** Between the hours of **09:00** and **15:00** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of Affected Roads. Roads affected - **MOAT HILL, TOTNES , OUTSIDE GREENOVER TO OUTSIDE ORCHARD EDGE**. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - **TOTNES DOWN HILL, HIGHER BOWDON TO ASHPRINGTON CROSS, HIGHER BOWDON TO ASHPRINGTON CROSS, ASHPRINGTON CROSS TO BOWDEN PILLARS, BOWDEN PILLARS TO A381 PAST BOWDEN LODGE, A381 WESTERN BY PASS TO GERSTON CROSS, WESTERN BY PASS, CISTERN STREET, HIGH STREET, FORE STRET, THE PLAINS, WARLAND & VICE VERSA**  
This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **POLE REPLACEMENT**. For additional information contact: **BARR ON BEHALF OF (CIRCET UK/ OPENREACH)** Telephone: **01905 676121**



**Temporary Traffic Order - Fork Cross to Dorsley Barton & Hazard Cross to Fork Cross along ZC794, Harberton (TTRO2668943). THE COUNTY OF DEVON**

**(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION) (FORK CROSS TO DORSLEY BARTON & HAZARD CROSS TO FORK CROSS ALONG ZC794, HARBERTON) ORDER 2026 TEMPORARY SPEED LIMITS. NOTICE** is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. From **MONDAY 1 JUNE 2026** for a maximum of 18 months. Anticipated Finish **FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2026** No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour on the length of road below. Roads affected - **FORK CROSS TO DORSLEY BARTON & HAZARD CROSS TO FORK CROSS ALONG**



**ZC794, HARBERTON.** The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via – **10MPH RESTRICTION** - FORK CROSS TO DORSLEY BARTON – FROM A POINT 50M EAST OF FORK CROSS AND HEADING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION FOR 450M **40MPH RESTRICTION** HAZARD CROSS TO FORK CROSS ALONG ZC794 – FROM A POINT 50M EAST OF FORK CROSS AND HEADING IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION FOR 250M **40MPH RESTRICTION** - FORK CROSS TO DORSLEY BARTON – FROM A POINT 500M EAST OF FORK CROSS AND HEADING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION FOR 250M. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **DRAINAGE WORKS**. For additional information contact: **MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE** Telephone: **020 3307 8051**

**Surface Dressing Programme 2026 - Totnes & Dartington Division**

As part of DCC annual maintenance programmes, they will be undertaking Surface Dressing in Totnes & Dartington Division. Please see attached information and the leaflets that our Contractor, Kiely Bros, will deliver to residents a few days prior to the start of works.

*Given the unpredictable weather and the nature of the Surface Dressing process, the programme will inevitably change, but I have included the target dates of works below. In order to manage expectations, we will refer all stakeholders to Kiely for queries regarding dates and access.*

*Surface Dressing is a cost-effective way of restoring and protecting road surfaces to improve skid resistance and road safety, to seal the surface to prevent water ingress, to slow deterioration and to expand the lifespan of the road. Surface Dressing is applied to roads that remain in generally better condition. The process involves sweeping the road to remove debris, spraying the surface with a layer of bitumen binder, applying stone chippings and rolling the surface to embed the chippings. Treated areas will be swept to remove any excess chippings. To be successful, Surface Dressing relies upon warm, dry weather and for this reason, work is usually carried out between May and September. A list of planned sites within Totnes & Dartington Division is provided below:*

**The sites for 2026 are:**

- **Bennetts Cross to Brockhill, Harberton – SD 13/06**
- **Thornecroft cross to Church Cross, Ashburton – SD 12/07**
- **Hernaford Cross to Spanish Lane End, Halwell and Moreleigh – SD: 15/07**

*To ensure the safety of road users and our workforce, traffic management measures – including road closures and temporary parking restrictions – will be in place. There may be short periods of restricted access to properties and motorists are advised to allow extra time for travel. We aim to place signage out at least 7 days before planned work begins, and we will letter-drop residents and businesses directly impacted by the works a few days beforehand. Most sites are completed within one day. Larger sites may take up to three days. A five day ‘weather window’ is displayed on signs to allow flexibility with planned*

*Given that planned dates may change due to weather, up-to-date information will be available on the one.network: <https://one.network> For access queries and dates of work, please contact DCC Contractor, Kiely Bros, on 0121 772 3800 (option 1) or via [customercare@kielybros.co.uk](mailto:customercare@kielybros.co.uk)*

Further information regarding the Surface Dressing Programme 2026 across Devon is available on DCC website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/traffic-information/roadworks/surface-dressing/> Highway Liaison Team Email: [highway.highwaysliaison-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:highway.highwaysliaison-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

**Planning Enforcement concerns regarding the current development at St. Mary's, located at Broom Park, Dartington.** Further to the ongoing complaints from local residents, Parish .Cllrs and myself seeking confirmation regarding survey of land levels re new housing at rear of site, **02.04.26, I had a meeting with SHDC CEO and Director of Planning.** Both expressed their willingness to attend a Dartington Parish Council meeting and arranged a meeting for me to meet with the Enforcement team. **22.04.26. I had a meeting with the Enforcement team at SHDC.,** where a survey of levels at the rear of the site and the now built houses, carried out by Bakers Estates, was discussed. As enforcement matters are confidential the outcome of that meeting will be reported directly to the Parish Council and the residents concerned. A further meeting is being arranged with the SHDC Enforcement team which will include the Parish Clerk, parish Councillors and affected residents.

**Old Totnes Bridge safety improvements: 20.03.26** Teams mtg with AT officer to discuss investigations and data needed. Next steps information gathering.

**Bob the Bus has won the Kings Award for its services to community transport.** A formal ceremony was held at Follaton and a trophy presented on 1<sup>st</sup> May by the Lord Lieutenant of Devon. Further to which, I arranged a meeting for BTB with DCC's Community Transport Team to discuss options for BTB to have some support funding for its services. This was a positive meeting.

**Tree Felling at North Woods, Dartington.** I received a reply further to my formal complaint to the Forestry Commission in response to public complaints about the felling of trees, that a number of residents considered was outside of the approved schedule. The FC investigating the situation with site visits and have upheld my complaint, the findings of which they will communicate with the landowners, Dartington Hall Trust.

**Site visit in Totnes & Dartington to discuss highways issues: Meetings with DCC Highways Officers**

- **30.03.26. Bus stop at Shanners Bridge on the roundabout with no pedestrian access- long standing issue:** options discussed:
  1. Just alter the bus route and stopping places. I.e. remove the dangerous bus stop and re-route the bus coming from Buckfastleigh, to turn right at Shanners Bridge and drop passengers at the stop near Fishtek. The bus turns around at Origins roundabout, then comes back to Shanners bridge and continues to Totnes.
  2. Also investigated options for alternative stopping places between the 2 roundabouts on the DHT Shops at Dartington site:
  3. Move bus stop to the 'shops' car park was not considered suitable as its private land. A small area between the car park entrance and Shanners Bridge was investigated. This would need DHT permission to consider.It was agreed that the officer would investigate with the bus company concerned the viability of the change of bus stops option 1. above.

- **Site Visit to road at Meadowbrook/Bidwell Brook school:** the damaged surface was reported in.

**Meeting with Active Travel Officer and Neighbourhood Highways officer 01.04.26**

- **Bridgetown Hill proposed pedestrian Crossing just below the junction with Blackpost lane:** This is now on the list for consideration under next years' capital programme. The Highways officer agreed that this should qualify for funding and be a suitable location for a **Puffin crossing** with pedestrian operated lights. The design work is underway at DCC. An interim progress report will be brought to the next South Hams HATOC in July.
- **Parking in Weston Lane near Weston house and junction at Fleet Lane – no obstruction**
- **Puddaven Terrace, Ashburton Road –** safety issues with narrow pavement, air quality issue with emissions to be investigated further (missed opportunity with T.Homes / Clay Park road modifications). This is along the Totnes AQMA. Our NHO agreed to discuss with colleagues possible options to improve safety and reduce pollution for these residents.

**20's Plenty – proposals for Totnes.** No news as yet; due to be funded in this year's budget

**Inclusive Totnes:** host monthly meetings to work together for improvements to road safety and improved safe access for people with visible and invisible disabilities. The group are carrying out a street hazard audit in Totnes. <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/01b827be-c895-402a-b01b-611571182425@31f108ed-73ce-4693-9d61-3572ccce5518>

**Floating bus stops have been an issue reported to DCC by disability groups.** This is the link to the regulations and designs: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/floating-bus-stops-provision-and-design/floating-bus-stops-provision-and-design>

**Application for an Asset of Community Value: for the Live and Let Live Pub, Staverton.** This has been received at SHDC and is being processed. I have supported the application.

**The Flytip of building materials that was dumped near Huxhams Cross** was suspected of containing asbestos. SHDC Environmental Health team and the EA cleared it up. I have asked them to investigate who did this.


**TRAYE 10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations & AGM:** Our April Youth Conference at Stover Country Park and the 'birthday' disco for the young people were a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended. Soundart Radio recorded the conference and an edited version was broadcast on Soundart Radio on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9.45am. The link to this recording has been made available to TRAYE and will be accessible on it's website. The Poetry Workshop was a success, producing a number of poems including a collaborative Conference poem; TRAYE will be looking to build on this towards the **SHDC Rally for Nature in June/July**. Participating parishes are welcome to be involved in this too if they wish. Reports on these events and this year's annual report at our **AGM on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> June at Staverton**. All Participating Parish Councils and other interested parties are welcome to attend.


**South Hams Community Safety Partnership: "Let's Talk team new Let's Talk Teenagers sessions**  
*These are online sessions that are FREE and aimed at parents and carers of teenagers. It is an opportunity to hear about the challenges young people are facing today and what you can do to support them. If you'd like to book please click the links below:*

- Session 1 - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm – Understanding your teenager - [Click here to book](#)
- Session 2 – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm – Community Risks - [Click here to book](#)
- Session 3 – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm – Family life - [Click here to book](#)


*Please share these details far and wide and encourage family and friends to come along, we have had a lot of positive feedback from people who have attended. We will also be launching a new website at the end of the month which will have access to all the information we give in our sessions along with recordings and bitesize clips. In June/July we will be running sessions for parents and carers of primary aged children and for parents and carers of pre-teens and we will keep you informed of these events."* Claire Birch, **Community Safety Officer. South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership.**


**Local Entrepreneur Forum & Community of Dragons May 14th at The Seven Stars Hotel, Totnes.** *Roots, Resilience & Real Change Over 15 years, our area has become an abundant garden of pro-social, pro-ecological enterprises — keeping money local, creating meaningful livelihoods, and strengthening the social fabric of our community. The 14th Local Entrepreneur Forum & Community of Dragons continues that story. Meet the next wave: Food system builders, youth supporters, creative community makers — all co-creating a more resilient place to live. Come & support them.*

 @FoodinCommunity — [foodincommunity.org](http://foodincommunity.org)

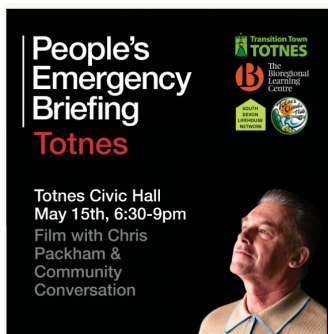
 @ContactDarkroom — [contactdarkroom.co.uk](http://contactdarkroom.co.uk)

 @CROP — [cropcommunity.org](http://cropcommunity.org)

 @TheGatheringGround — [gatheringgroundcic.co.uk](http://gatheringgroundcic.co.uk)

 @JamandBread — [jamandbread.org.uk](http://jamandbread.org.uk)

Help spread the word. [Share this link!](#)



In November 2025, the National Emergency Briefing brought together leading experts to present the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis to politicians and other influential people in Westminster. The outcome is this film, showing the impact in broad terms on everyday national life. It has been covered by ITV, C4, and the Times. The screening will be followed by discussion about what we are already doing, and could do, here in South Devon.

**Book tickets here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-emergency-briefing-screening-tickets-1986081051890?aff=oddtcreator>

**This is the link to find out about other screenings and how to apply to host local screenings of this film. There is no charge to hire the film. I'd be happy to help out with a Q&A session with the film.** <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>

**I am working with officers at DCC to host screenings of this film for Councillors and Staff at County Hall. SHDC have already arranged screenings for their Councillors and staff this month.**

**South Devon LIFEHOUSE network- Helping to plan for local Flood Emergencies: useful information & contacts:** Devon Communities Together has been supporting communities to develop their local community resilience & emergency plan (CEP), a document that guides community response in an emergency and helps communities to prepare. To get support on creating or updating your community emergency plan contact: [rod.birtles@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:rod.birtles@devoncommunities.org.uk) Grant finance for equipment up to £1,500 is available. There is also help to set up "Community Emergency Hubs" - community-run spaces where local people can come together to support one another and take swift, safe and effective action in those crucial early moments before emergency services arrive - a local neighbourhood Lifehouse perhaps? More info <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/news/community-emergency-hubs>. Lifehouse <[lifehouse@transitiontowntotnes.org](mailto:lifehouse@transitiontowntotnes.org)>

**National Lifehouse invite to online sessions for local activity:** A series of online community gatherings where groups across the UK will share their learnings and lessons on building togetherness in the face of growing crises, societal breakdown, and environmental challenges. Follow the links to register for each ONLINE event you would like to attend

🍊 **Togetherness:** Sunday 7 June 18.30 GMT +1 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/togetherness-show-tell-session-from-lifehouses-and-fabric-tickets-1986662478954>

🍊 **Resilience:** Sunday 5 July 18:30 GMT +1 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/resilience-show-tell-session-from-lifehouses-and-fabric-tickets-1986903625229>

🍊 **Power:** Sunday 13 September 18:30 GMT +1 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/power-show-tell-session-from-lifehouses-and-fabric-tickets-1986904079588>

Cost: Free 💰 Capacity: Limited spaces available ⚠️



Sustainable South Hams

**South Hams Community Compost project: Food-scrap, community and home composting workshops this summer with Sustainable South Hams.** Please find the

event details below, email Mel for more information and share with others in your networks who may be interested.

**Food-scrap composting and micro-enterprise forum**

Tuesday 19th May, 6-8pm, School Farm, Dartington, TQ9 6EB

Free. More information and booking [HERE](#) or email [mel@sussh.org](mailto:mel@sussh.org)

Join SusSH for a discussion and practical session launching the [Streetwise Composting](#) booklet, discussion on the potential to increase local food-scrap composting and presentation by compost mentor Melissa Harvey of findings from a feasibility study on food-scrap composting as a micro-enterprise in South Hams. This will be followed by demonstration of small-scale in-vessel composting at the School Farm Streetwise composting site and discussion on possibilities.

### **Visit to Generous Earth food-scrap composting project, Plymouth**

Thursday 28th May, 6:30-8pm, Zoo Fields, Central Park, Plymouth.

Free. More information and booking [HERE](#) or email [mel@sussh.org](mailto:mel@sussh.org).

Tess Wilmot, the permaculture designer, teacher, urban gardener and composter, will host a visit to Generous Earth community food scrap composting in Plymouth. There will be a chance to look at the equipment and to find out who brings their food scraps, how they are composted and how the compost is used. We will discuss how they crowdfunded for three composting sites across Plymouth, and the logistics around agreements with the sites. Details for sharing transport from South Hams will be confirmed on booking, but we will be meeting in Plymouth at 6:30pm.

### **Home and master composter summer training sessions**

Sustainable South Hams (SusSH) have teamed up with Garden Organic's Master Composter programme to get more people composting as much at home, feeding their soil, and keeping the valuable nutrients in the local home-grown food and flower systems. We have a series of home-composting workshops coming up this summer at the new demonstration site in Dartington, which has working examples of various systems including hotbin, wormery, bokashi and tumbler. See dates and booking details below.

For keen experienced composters we have the chance to train as a **Master Composter** and support others in your community, with an initial training session on the 1st July, 6-8pm, Dartington, TQ9 6EB, more information and booking [HERE](#) or email [mel@sussh.org](mailto:mel@sussh.org).

### **Home composting drop-in session**

Sunday 7 June, 11am-3pm at School Farm, Dartington, TQ9 6EB

Join us at the home compost demonstration site to see composting equipment in action, get some tips, or buy a dalek bin. **Bring a tub if you'd like to take worms!** Part of Open Farm Sunday. **Drop-in, no need to book.**

### **Twilight home-composting workshop**

Thursday 18th June, 6-8pm, School Farm, Dartington, TQ9 6EB

Free. More information and booking [HERE](#) or email [mel@sussh.org](mailto:mel@sussh.org).

Learn about the principles and practices of composting at home, and get hands-on with home composting equipment in action.

### **Saturday morning home-composting workshop**

Saturday 18th July, 10am-1pm, School Farm, Dartington TQ9 6EB

Free. More information and booking [HERE](#) or email [mel@sussh.org](mailto:mel@sussh.org).

Learn about the principles and practices of composting at home, and get hands-on with home composting equipment in action.

### **Community Composting**

Last, but by no means least, we have opportunities for people to come together to share learning about setting up community composting sites, for local composting of garden scraps.

### **Community composting workshop**

Monday 15th June, 6-8pm, location in South Hams tbc

Free. For details and to book email [ruthlw@sussh.org](mailto:ruthlw@sussh.org).

For emergent projects and anyone interested. This session will look at setting up a community garden-scrap composting, learning from other successful projects in the South Hams. Session includes how to get funding, logistics and legislation.

### Community composting sites tour

Date tbc, week commencing 6th July, evening pm, locations in South Hams

Free. For details and to book email [ruthlw@sussh.org](mailto:ruthlw@sussh.org).

Tour of some existing community garden-scrap composting sites in the South Hams. An opportunity to see the sites, layout, equipment and share learning with others.

That's all for now! We really hope you'll be able to join some of the sessions over the summer and keep those valuable nutrients in the local food system and nourishing the soil!

Do get in touch with any questions. Best wishes, Melissa Harvey, **Compost Mentor**

**Joined up Action** **Joined-up Action for Climate & Nature** is a process of mutual learning and participation for groups, organisations and businesses, small or large, working across climate, nature, livelihoods and community resilience in South Devon. As part of this work, BLC is launching a **Joined-up Action Café** - a free online series running on Thursdays every other week at **1-2pm starting on 30th April**. The first session will focus on land use.



**Bioregional Learning Days 2026 begins on the 13th July** and we're getting VERY excited about the co-learning potential of this cohort. You are invited to join us, to “bring your bioregion with you” and step inside our current work on systems change. Link to information and booking:

<https://mailchi.mp/373530ca474f/learn-with-blc-in-10150754?e=cd7d6fb2e8>

**Energy Saving Trust is hosting a series of free webinars to give you the latest information on electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging.** *“The webinars are fully funded through our [Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Support Scheme \(EVISS\)](#). We'll cover:*

*A quick introduction to EVs*

*Why the switch to EVs? Policy and progress*

*Charging Up: On Street and On the Go*

*Community & Investment; The role of Local Authorities*

*Q&A*

*More EV models are now available, and people in your ward will be thinking about the switch and asking about charging options. Being informed will help you support residents looking to make the change and also keep you up to date regarding the roll-out of new on-street chargers.*

We've [six webinars coming up](#), running during the day and in the evening, to make it easier to find time in your diary.

[Tuesday 19 May at 12pm](#)

[Wednesday 20 May at 7pm](#)

[Tuesday 16 June at 12pm](#)

[Wednesday 17 June at 7pm](#)

[Tuesday 21 July at 12pm](#)

[Wednesday 22 July at 7pm](#)