

REPORTS – MARCH 2018

County Councillor Alistair Dewhirst

Devon residents can find inspiration on how to give the things they no longer want a new lease of life this week, by repairing, refurbishing, repurposing or giving them to someone else. Recycle Devon is championing the second annual 'REUSE Week' which showcases the work of Devon's many and varied Reuse organisations.

REUSE Week is a celebration of these diverse organisations and what they do. Some groups help people swap, donate and loan the things they no longer need; while others specialise in fixing, renovating or repurposing once-loved items. But they all share a common goal – to reduce waste, increase opportunities for the community and help disadvantaged members of society.

According to the Local Government Association UK households are throwing away £400 million worth of items every year that could have been reused. Throughout the week the groups host events and promotions in every corner of the county, encouraging us all to think differently about what we buy and what we throw away. The events range from creative activities for the family, Give and Take sessions and repair cafes to bookable craft workshops, clothes swaps and even an electrical 'fix fest.'

Residents across Devon are being reminded to 'wash, squash and pop the cap on' when they recycle glass and plastic bottles and jars. Many people are unsure if they should leave lids on recyclable containers when they recycle from home or make use of bottle banks and Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Recycle Devon has been working with Devon authorities to make recycling as easy as possible for residents. Following on from industry advice, you can now leave your caps, tops and lids on both your plastic and glass bottles and jars. Simply give the bottle or jar a rinse, squash plastic bottles, put the top back on and recycle as you normally would – even it's a metal lid on a glass jar.

Replacing lids, caps and tops will not only ensure they are recycled and Devon maintains its 55.7% recycling rate but will reduce volume in recycling bins and recycling lorries. The preference is that lids are attached to bottles and jars but if this is not possible lids can be recycled according to their material, so metal lids in with cans and plastic lids in with plastics.

Devon County Council is thanking care providers for pulling out the stops these last few days. Care workers moved heaven and earth to ensure that their clients continued to have the care they need during the storm weekend.

Health and social care teams in the county worked together to deliver vital care to people at home. Examples of care workers and health staff going the extra mile to reach their clients have been in abundance.

One Devon carer used his neighbour's tractor to get to patients, while other used quad bikes to visit their patients.

- A GP in North Devon slept in his surgery so that he was able to see his patients first thing the following day. Elsewhere, social care workers slept in the office so that they could respond quicker to their client's needs.

- Police took a domiciliary care worker to deliver care to a lady with very complex care needs so that the lady could remain at home. The home visit prevented the lady from needing to be admitted to hospital.
- Health and social care works everywhere worked extra shifts and many volunteered on their days off to make sure that patients were OK.
- One vulnerable man in Ilfracombe needed a few days in residential care but transport wasn't available. So care staff took him in their 4 x 4, so he was safely delivered to the care home.
- Health and social care staff home stayed on at work longer in order to deliver care to people in their community, and then became stuck themselves. 4 x 4 volunteers got them home safely to their young families.
- Many care workers walked their rounds for days in order to carry out welfare checks. Some community nurses walked three miles into work before then doing their visits on foot.

Twinnings Report- Cllr Dot Simmons

The Twinnings have now paid for all the travel requirements for this April's visit to Trevieres. We are hiring a minibus, driven by one of our qualified members, and taking the ferry. A gift of a crystal apple, in a gift box with plaque stating it being a gift from the village and the year. The annual quiz is this Friday, 16th March in the village hall. £5 per person to include cold buffet meal and pop up bar selling soft drinks and wine. We are hoping there will be good support as the money raised goes towards hosting the French next year.

Village Hall Report – Cllr Dot Simmons

AGM followed by meeting Tuesday 6 March

AGM Report

The Village Hall committee held their AGM, with a small no of villagers attending. It was decided to return to the original date of AGM in October – date 02 October 2018. No new members were appointed, members took on named positions of responsibility for the following term.

Chairman- Karl Pederson
 Treasurer-Paul Church
 Secretary- Liz Kent
 Bar Co-ordinator-Sue Thorpe
 Function Co-ordinator-Judy Barnes
 Health and Safety Officer-Matt Fearn

Village Hall March Meeting

The following roles taken on at AGM were discussed by members of the committee: Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Bar co-ordinator, Function co-ordinator, health and safety officer. A main event is being planned for 27th October, on similar lines to the successful Motorbike speaker event last year.

It was discussed that it would be useful for groups using main hall to have the London wall closed on a permanent basis, using the door for access. Only trained people will be allowed to open and close wall as it has been a very expensive repair.

A decorator will be employed to redecorate the main hall, entrance hall, and toilet areas before May if possible.

The next meeting is Tuesday 03 April 2018 at 19.00.