

## County Councillor's Parish Council Report 17<sup>th</sup> December - Abbotskerswell

Good evening.

A national programme to help GPs identify patients experiencing domestic abuse or sexual violence and refer them to specialist support services is being rolled out across Devon and Torbay.

Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) is a successful general-practice based domestic abuse and sexual violence training and referral programme developed and coordinated by the social enterprise, IRISi.

It's the first of its kind in the area and will see domestic abuse and sexual violence specialists work in partnership with local clinical leads to co-deliver training and support in up to 50 general practices across Devon and Torbay.

Householders across the county are being urged to think of the environment over the festive period and to take steps to ensure that Devon has a 'green' and pleasant Christmas.

Christmas might be the most 'wonderful time of the year' – but it's also the most wasteful. British households typically produce around 30 per cent more waste during the period, so it's particularly important to recycle everything you can and plan your meals.

Using shiny or glittery paper for wrapping is very popular – unfortunately however it's not great for the environment. Foil-type paper can't be recycled, and often matt coloured wrapping paper is laden with taped-on bows, ribbons so it can't be recycled either.

Recycle Devon suggests that you try something different this year – why not use brown parcel paper with a coloured ribbon. It's not only better for the environment but it will also look great.

Glass bottles and jars can be recycled again and again. If everyone in the UK recycled one more glass bottle it would stop nearly 4,000 cars worth of CO2 getting into our atmosphere. Recycling six mince pie foil cases will save enough energy to watch an episode of your favourite Christmas Day TV soap.

Check [recycledevon.org](http://recycledevon.org) for where you can recycle your Christmas cards but even before recycling your cards, why not be ready for next year and make gift tags out of this year's Christmas cards and then recycle the rest? And if you're having visitors to stay this Christmas, let them know where your recycling bins are and what goes in them.

Christmas lunch, New Year's Eve celebrations and friends and family popping round all mean one thing – fridges and cupboards stocked with food and drink. Unilever estimates that we throw away over four million Christmas dinners. That's 263,000 turkeys, 740,000 slices of Christmas pudding, 11.3million roast potatoes and 17.2million Brussels sprouts.

Some simple, quick planning will mean that you have just the right amount of food for the festive period. Go to [recycledevon.org](http://recycledevon.org) for the details

For those of us that choose 'real' Christmas trees, they are 100% recyclable and can be shredded and composted at home or put out for collection via your local council or taken for composting to Brunel Rd tip or Fermoys.

Finally a real good news story. Devon County Council engineers and contractors braved tough weather conditions to complete repairs to Shaldon Bridge last Thursday 13 December.

Work to pour concrete around the defective pier, in order to strengthen the 89-year-old structure, went ahead as planned. The teams had to contend with difficult conditions and divers worked until early the early hours in zero visibility to carry out the repairs. We hope the weight restriction will be lifted tomorrow.