

### **Sign up now for garden waste**

Renewal letters are being sent by our district council partners to the many thousands of subscribers to the popular garden waste collection service. The fortnightly service helps the environment by avoiding any garden waste ending up in wasteful landfill.

Somerset Waste Partnership recycled over 40,000 tonnes of garden waste last year – equivalent to the weight of nearly 5,000 London buses. It was turned into “Revive” compost right here in Somerset – which you can purchase from any of Somerset’s 16 recycling sites.

New subscribers are always welcome but to fully benefit for the service, residents are advised to join at the start of the financial year. Subscriptions are arranged through your local district council customer services team. Full details are available on the [SWP website](#), including details of service suspensions over Christmas. For those not renewing, garden waste collections will stop on 31 March.

### **All the colours of recycling**

Water-based paints taken to our 16 recycling sites are turned into new paint by Paint360 in the West Midlands. The cans are opened, tested and then sorted by type, colour and brand before being reprocessed.

Last year 197 tonnes of Somerset’s paint were re-engineered by the firm into paints with a 95% recycled content. The paint is frequently used by social enterprises across the country.

### **Recycling sites’ full weekends**

Later weekday hours and full opening weekends at all sites are among the changes coming with the recycling sites [upgrade from Monday 1 April](#).

Reflecting users’ demands, and keeping all 16 sites open, Somerset Waste Board agreed a range of changes that include:

- Year-round Saturday and Sunday hours 9am-4pm at all sites
- Later weekday opening in summer (to 6pm April-September) and winter (to 5pm October-March)
- Same number or extra days at 10 sites, including Chard and Wells
- Fewer days but no closures at six, including Crewkerne and Dulverton, the two sites with lowest use and highest costs. £2 entry fees to end by April 2020
- With low early user numbers, all sites will start work later, at 9am
- With later weekday closing, an end to underused 7pm Mondays

Site changes are part of Somerset waste services’ transformation, from extra weekly recycling and three-weekly rubbish collections rolling out from 2020 to the move away from landfilling refuse.

### **Icy roads hit collections**

Early in the month, snow and ice seriously affected collections across the county. With very few collections taking place on Friday 1 February, crews worked hard during the next week to catch-up whilst also completing their planned collections. The catch-up was helped by a temporary suspension of the garden waste service (as set out in

the subscription terms and conditions). We thank the crews concerned for their hard work and dedication, and for the understanding of Somerset residents.

### Make a link to SWP's website

SWP would like to remind parish clerks that a host of information on kerbside collections and recycling sites is available on the [SWP website](#). Please do take a moment to familiarise yourself with our services and please link your parish websites to our home page (not to specific pages in case these change) to help your residents find information, check their waste collection days, order replacement recycling containers and report missed collections.

### Can Somerset fix it?

SWP has promoted a number of repair cafes being held around the county – from Wiveliscombe to Wells. Repair cafes are friendly and informal events which stop the waste of fixable items, such as dresses, kettles or computers. They are usually free but welcome donations. More information about repairing items can be found on our website at the [share-and-repair](#) page. SWP is keen to promote such community events to our 4,000 plus followers on Facebook.

### Latest media releases

Recent communications included:

- [Cold weather and waste update](#)
- [Final stages of collections catch-up](#)
- [Promoting community Repair Cafes across the county.](#)

Upcoming communications will include an early reminder of the revised collection dates around Easter.

### Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, with two members nominated by each of the six Somerset partner councils, one of which must be the portfolio holder for waste and/or the environment. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the Board AGM from its membership. The next SWB meeting is on Friday 29 March 2019, when the Board will decide upon the new collection contractor. SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#).

For more on SWP, SWB and waste services: [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk).

SWB membership:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Nigel Taylor
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – Cllrs David Hall, Mike Pullin
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Derek Yeomans (Chairman)
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllrs Patrick Berry, Hazel Prior-Sankey
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

### Information on SWP services

For all advice and information, visit [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and sign up to our e-zine on our [website](#).

All partners' customer service helplines can assist with service enquiries.

