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Trust**

There were a couple of stormy days in February which saw a lot of rubbish washed up onto the beaches as well as some palm oil (waxy white lumps) which is toxic to animals if eaten. Please do keep an eye out for any palm oil on the beach and if possible bag it and remove it off site where an animal would not be able to ingest it. If it is a large lump please call the Ranger team and let us know the exact location and we will come and pick it up. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped clear up the litter from the beach. It was amazing to see all the sand washed back onshore as well as the mass of Kelp, which is an incredibly valuable habitat for coastal invertebrates and a rich source of food for the coastal birdlife too and will be left to naturally rot down on the beach.

The Dartmoor ponies at Wembury Point are doing well however in recent weeks it has been noted that some visitors are feeding them. These ponies are wild and must not be fed any additional food other than can be found naturally on site, not even vegetable material as this can make the ponies more interested in following and interacting with people which is not welcome by all visitors to Wembury Point and is not helpful when they head back to their home on the moors. The ponies can also become unwell eating foods their digestive system is not used to. Another worrying occurrence is the ponies getting out of their compartment regularly into the next grazing area and this can only be happening due to gates not being closed properly and more worryingly by gates being wedged open on purpose. Any gate that is supposed to be open on site will be locked open by the Ranger team so there is no confusion if it should be left open. All other gates should otherwise be closed.

We have said goodbye to our Full time Volunteer community Ranger Susan Ford who has been working with us for the last 6 months gaining experience so she can gain employment in visitor services, events and volunteer management. Sue at present is still applying for jobs and has headed back to her home in Yorkshire and will be volunteering until she finds employment, which with her skills and experience will be very soon. Sue will be really missed as her work has greatly improved our communication levels with our volunteers.

For further information please call Lorna Sherriff on 01548 562344 or email lorna.sherriff@nationaltrust.org.uk

Lorna Sherriff
Area Ranger

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