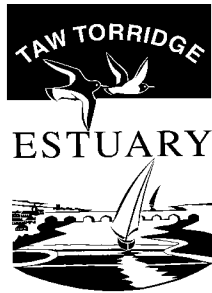


TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 17th. FEBRUARY, 2008



www.ttef.org.uk

- **AONB/BR: Discovery Day – Sunday, 16th. March:**
- **DMF: Review of Devon Estuary Partnerships:**
- **DMF: Coastal Zone Management and LAAs:**
- **Defra: Sea Fisheries Management in Estuaries:**
- **Braunton Marsh: Wildlife Report:**
- **Environment Agency: Invertebrate Survey:**
- **Environment Agency: Shoreline Management Plan**
- **NDCCS: Update and Reprint of Estuary Leaflet:**
- **NDCCS: Bin It, Don't Flush It!: Instow Beach:**
- **Braunton Parish Council: Velator Quay:**
- **Westleigh, Instow & West Yelland Event: July:**
- **Information Items and Newsletters:**
- **Consultations:**

NORTH DEVON AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY AND NORTH DEVON'S BIOSPHERE RESERVE:

DISCOVERY DAY – SUNDAY, 16th. MARCH, 2008 MILKY WAY ADVENTURE PARK

Following upon the success of last year's event with a coastal theme at Watermouth Castle, the North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty has this year combined with North Devon's Biosphere Reserve for its highly successful annual event.

The event will take place at The Milky Way Adventure Park, Higher Clovelly on Sunday, 16th. March, and will incorporate a rich and diverse programme of exhibitions, creative hands-on activities, guided walks and performances of music and poetry. This year's theme will be:

The cultural landscape, and the relationship between people and the local landscape over time - the theme will be interpreted in enjoyable and colourful ways by the many exhibitors, artists, schools and parish groups taking part.

Entry is **FREE** to the Discovery Day – however, there will be a charge to go on the Milky Way Adventure Park rides.

The TTEF will be running a stand at the Discovery Day, and offers of help and information leaflets/promotional material from member organisations would be gratefully received. Tony Pratt and I will be running the TTEF stand but, as I am also Vice Chairman of the ND AONB Partnership, I will have a dual role. **If you are thinking of coming to the event, and could spare an hour or so to help on the TTEF stand, please let me know as soon as possible.**

DEVON MARITIME FORUM: REVIEW OF FUNDING AND FUTURE OPTIONS FOR DEVON ESTUARY PARTNERSHIPS:

As mentioned at the last TTEF meeting, we have helped to facilitate a joint response from all of the Devon Area Estuary

Officers to Devon Maritime Forum's consultation document reviewing the funding and future options of Estuary Partnerships.

The Devon Area Estuary Officers met in Exeter on Wednesday, 6th. February, and a joint response will be submitted to meet the 22nd. February deadline.

Tony and I have written a response on behalf of the TTEF, which will also be submitted next week. If you would like copies of either of these responses, please let me know.

DEVON MARITIME FORUM: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS:

Devon Maritime Forum has also just sent out another consultation document, this time on Coastal Zone Management and Local Area Agreements. This document explores how Coastal/Estuary Partnerships in Devon might engage with the process of Local Area Agreements and Sustainable Community Strategies.

Tony Pratt and I will also be submitting consultation responses to this document, which have to be in before the Devon Strategic Partnership conference on 18th. March. If any TTEF members wish to assist in the consultation response, please let me know.

DEFRA: MARINE BILL: SEA FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN ESTUARIES – INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (IFCAs)

Defra has decided that responsibility for sea fisheries management in estuaries will, in future, rest with Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), which will be established under the Marine Bill and will replace Sea Fisheries Committees as the inshore sea fisheries manager. These IFCAs will seek to provide a balanced representation, consistent with an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, of both fisheries' and environmental interests. This will involve seats on the Authorities for Natural England, for a representative of the Marine Management Organisation (as set up by the forthcoming Marine Bill), for the Environment Agency and for others representing the fisheries and environmental sectors.

At present, the Taw Torridge Estuary is the only estuary in Devon that has the Environment Agency as our Sea Fisheries Committee (all of the other estuaries come under the jurisdiction of the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee). The establishment of IFCAs will, therefore, lead to a considerable change in the management of our sea fisheries.

Under the terms of IFCAs, the Environment Agency will retain lead responsibility for the management of freshwater and migratory species, using strengthened powers through the Marine Bill. IFCAs will provide the lead on the management of marine species, including shellfish.

It is envisaged by Defra that IFCAs, with their greater environmental focus and membership, strengthened powers and funding arrangements, coupled with the requirement to work with the Environment Agency, will provide the basis for the effective implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

I will keep you informed of any further information I receive as this initiative evolves.

BRAUNTON MARSH: WILDLIFE REPORT

Richard Dyer, Chairman of the Braunton Marsh Internal Drainage Board, has recently asked Maranda Coleman-Cooke to prepare a Wildlife Report on Braunton Marsh in 2007. Her report is below, for your information:

- "High water levels during both summer and winter have provided "wet fencing" and drinking water for livestock on our lowland grazing marsh. This sympathetic management that also ensures good water quality has been enhanced through excellent maintenance and restoration of water control points.

- These favourable conditions have meant an increase in our species-rich communities of native plants and animals in the majority of ditches of Braunton Marsh.

- This year we had a record of 22 breeding moorhen along the Toll Road drain alone. Reed Buntings have increased, with 11 sightings of breeding pairs. A pair of kestrels raised 3 young in a linhay.

- Winter territories have been taken up by 3 kingfishers. We now have 3 barn owls on the marsh – they have taken up tenancies that have been vacant for the last 2 years due to unfavourable weather and a crash in the vole population. Let us hope the youngsters make it through the winter to breed.

- The signal of winter – 1,200 lapwings, 800 golden plover, 72 curlew, 60 grey plover for December 12.

- Spoonbills, merlin, peregrine falcon, goshawk, glossy ibis, cattle egret, gull-billed tern, great egret, blue winged teal are some of the rarities that have passed through – sightings for the lucky few!

- Otters of both sexes travel the marsh from the Pill – evidence from spraints and markings. Walking certain drains – hearing the "plop" in the water has resulted in the construction of rafts. These will be placed to ascertain evidence of water voles or at the worse – mink!

- Finally we are working towards 2008."

On your behalf, I have congratulated Richard Dyer, the Braunton Marsh Internal Drainage Board, the Marsh Inspectors, the Marsh farmers and Maranda Coleman-Cooke (also a member of the Internal Drainage Board) on such an excellent report.

For information, the TTEF Management Study on Braunton Marsh, researched and written by Clare Manning, was launched in January 1997, and can be found on the TTEF website:

www.ttef.org.uk

<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Study/BrauntonReportDigital.pdf>

You should also be aware that many of the beautiful pictures in the Braunton Marsh Study were taken by Maranda Coleman-Cooke.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY: TAW TORRIDGE MARINE INVERTEBRATE SURVEY

As part of its work for the Water Framework Directive, the Environment Agency is looking to do a marine invertebrate survey of the Taw Torridge Estuary between 5th. and 7th. of March. This will involve taking core samples (0.1m² at each site) from intertidal areas within the estuary, at approximately 30 different sites. To access the sites and to transport the samples, a small hovercraft will be used. The samples will be washed through and will then be preserved for subsequent laboratory analysis.

The Water Framework Directive demands an integrated approach to determining the ecological and chemical status of surface water and the chemical and quantitative status of groundwater. This involves a change in monitoring requirements from the present position, and will ensure a more

dynamic risk-based approach.

The use of biological assessment as one of the main mechanisms for determining the status of the aquatic environment helps the Environment Agency to focus on the real problems that need to be resolved and on the actions needed to achieve environmental objectives.

For more information on the survey, please contact:

paul.carter@environment-agency.gov.uk

and for information on the Water Framework Directive,

please access the EA's website:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY: REVIEW OF SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

At the recent TTEF meeting, members voted that I should register all of the TTEF organisations, and their contact personnel, with Angela Proctor, the EA Project Manager. This will ensure that all TTEF organisations will be consulted as stakeholders in the forthcoming consultation on the future of shoreline management in the area. The results of the consultation will be used to develop a strategy for managing flooding erosion along this coastline.

Shoreline Management Plans provide large-scale assessments of flooding and coastal erosion and the associated risks, and then look at ways to deal with the risks posed to people and the environment.

For more information on the Shoreline Management Plan:

angela.proctor@environment-agency.gov.uk

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

NORTHERN DEVON COAST AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE: MEETING TO UPDATE THE ESTUARY CODE OF CONDUCT AND ESTUARY USERS' GUIDE

Following the recent meeting to discuss the Taw Torridge Estuary Craft Registration Scheme, Tony Pratt (NDYC), Paul Fronteras (Westleigh PC), Simon Brown (MVS) and myself (Instow PC and CPRE) attended a meeting with Ben Totterdell of the NDCCS on 5th. February to review and update the Taw Torridge Estuary Code of Conduct and Estuary Users' Guide, prior to this leaflet being reprinted in time for the forthcoming 2008 season.

Ben is to draft the amended leaflet and, following agreement of the draft, he will have it reprinted before the end of March in time to be distributed for the 2008 season.

NORTHERN DEVON COAST AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE: BIN IT, DON'T FLUSH IT!

As part of its project on Marine Litter along the North Devon coast, the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service is holding a Bin It, Don't Flush It! event on Instow Beach on Saturday, 23rd. February, 2008 to raise awareness that items flushed down the toilet can often end up on our beaches as marine litter.

The aim is to promote the message of keeping our beaches clean by reminding people to put the 'dirty dozen' items into the bin and not down the toilet. These items are:

- sanitary towels, panty liners, backing strips
- tampons and tampon applicators
- condoms and femidoms
- disposable nappies
- facial cleansing, baby and cleaning wipes

- plastic bags and wrappers
- disposable mop heads
- bandages and plasters
- razor blades
- cotton buds
- incontinence pads
- syringes and needles
-

The events taking place on the day will be:

- a beach clean at 1.45 p.m. Volunteers should meet at the Slipway in front of the Commodore Hotel
- a temporary installation by Mrs. ReCycle involving 20 to 30 white toilets on the high-tide strandline to highlight and raise awareness about the issues of sewage-related debris and marine litter found on our beaches

For any further information, please contact:

Tom Hynes: tom.hynes@devon.gov.uk

Fiona Fraser-Smith: stacey.olver@devon.gov.uk

You will note that Fiona has taken over Stacey Olver's e-mail address. Sadly, Stacey (who was responsible for this project up to last Christmas) has now left the NDCCS. We wish her every success in her new life, and we look forward to working with Fiona in the future.

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL: ENHANCEMENT OF VELATOR QUAY

Having received a letter from Councillor Mrs. Carol Palmer of Branton Parish Council before Christmas, advising us that the Parish Council was backing her initiative to reinstate Velator Quay as an asset to Branton and to the Taw Torridge Estuary as a whole, and to make it safe, and also to control houseboats, I had written to Cllr. Mrs. Palmer and registered the TTEF's interest in this matter.

I have now received a further letter from Cllr. Mrs. Palmer in which she states that, on advice from North Devon District Council, she has approached the Heritage Lottery with a view to obtaining funding. She has promised to contact the TTEF again once a site meeting has been arranged and the HLF has indicated whether or not it feels able to support the project.

WESTLEIGH, INSTOW AND WEST YELLAND COMMUNITY ON SHOW: SATURDAY, 5th. JULY, 2008

The Steering Committee for the Westleigh, Instow and West Yelland Community on Show Event planned for Saturday, 5th. July, 2008 has contacted me to know if the TTEF would wish to have an exhibit at the show. The primary agenda for this event is the environment and its sustainability, and the RNLI, the MCA, the NDCCS and others all take part.

If you would like to help to run a TTEF exhibit at this show, please contact me as soon as possible.

The programme for this year's event, and the list of exhibitors, will be prepared in the near future.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND NEWSLETTERS:

Biosphere Reserve Core Area: Report from John Breeds MBE

John's latest report for the TTEF meeting on 25th. January 2008 can be found on the TTEF website:

www.ttef.org.uk

Bideford Harbour Master and Taw Torridge Estuary Pilot:

Captain Roger Hoad's Report

This report submitted to the TTEF meeting on 25th. January 2008 can be found on the TTEF website:

www.ttef.org.uk

North Devon's Biosphere Reserve:

Newsletter: Issue 1 – February, 2008

If you have not already received a copy of this newsletter, and would like to be on the e-mailing list, please contact the Biosphere Team:

ben.totterdell@devon.gov.uk

website: www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk

CoastNet:

Coastal and Marine Education Network:

This is an initiative from CoastNet to expand its Marine Education Programme incorporating a Marine Educators' Network

The Network will be in the form of a listserver/forum to allow all members of the forum to contact each other and to share ideas, resources and news on Marine Education.

For more information:

Dr. T. Redding

Network Manager

The Gatehouse

Rowhedge Wharf

High Street

Rowhedge, Essex. CO5 7ET

e-mail: theresa.redding@coastnet.org.uk

www.coastnet.org.uk

www.coastweb.info

NCVO:

The Sustainable Funding Project:

An Introduction to Sustainable Funding –

Workshop for Community Organisations

Thursday, 28th. February, 2008

South Brent Village Hall

Devon

£23 per participant, including lunch and refreshments

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp

Devon Maritime Forum:

E-Newsletter: Issue 2 – February 2008

If you have not received a copy of this informative newsletter, and would like to be placed on the mailing list, please contact:

Jim Masters: jim.masters@devon.gov.uk

www.devonmaritimeforum.org.uk

(Jim even includes a link to TTEF newsletters and reports in this issue)

Maritime Volunteer Service:

Taw & Torridge Unit

Report of the Unit's First Year:

Congratulations to the MVS for a very successful first year.

The service now has two boats ready for service in the forthcoming 2008 season.

For a copy of the Report and for further information:

www.ttef.org.uk/mvs

www.mvs.org.uk

**COASTAL PARTNERSHIPS WORKING GROUP:
2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The date of this event has been changed, and will now take place on:

10th. and 11th. April 2008 at Bristol

- Launch of the 'Benefits of Working in Partnership at the Coast' project
- Marine Bill, ICZM and the role of Coastal Partnerships
- Valuing and developing a stronger role for Coastal Partnerships
- Networks for Coastal Officers

The event is **FREE**, so please book early

To book for the event:

tracey.hewett@hants.gov.uk

**Defra and the Marine and Fisheries Agency:
Joint Newsletter: Fishing Focus – Winter 2007/8**
www.defra.gov.uk/marine/fisheries/fishfocus.htm
Juanita.Liddell@defra.gsi.gov.uk

CONSULTATIONS:

Devon County Council:

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Article 5 Town and Country

(General Development Procedure) Order 1995:

Consultation on New Procedures for the Validation of

Planning Applications for

- where the County Council proposes to develop its own land, including that at county Schools and County owned buildings
- where the County makes an application to develop land not in its ownership including applications made jointly with third parties
- applications for Waste Developments

Deadline: 12 noon on Monday, 25th. February 2008

www.devon.gov.uk/planning-system/validation_consultation_planning@devon.gov.uk

North Devon District Council:

Creation of Flood Defence Scheme at

RMB Chivenor, Barnstaple

www.northdevon.gov.uk/planning

planning@northdevon.gov.uk

Marine and Fisheries Agency:

Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats

(Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging)

(England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007

Area 472 Culver Sand

Further information has been requested from the consultants,

White Young Green, in light of responses received from:

Natural England

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and

Aquaculture Science (Cefas)

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical

Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)

and

North Somerset Council and Somerset Wildlife Trusts

TTEF WEBSITE:

Amongst the information contained on the TTEF website,

www.ttef.org.uk

copies of the following are also available:

- Taw Torridge Estuary Users' Guide: containing
Estuary Code of Conduct
Estuary Zoning System
Estuary Speed Limits
- Taw Torridge Estuary Free Registration Scheme:
- Taw Torridge Estuary Incident Log:
- Taw Torridge Estuary Moorings Code of Practice:
- Taw Torridge Estuary Crab Tiling Code of Conduct:
- TTEF Management Study for Braunton Marsh:
- Taw Torridge Estuary: Geomorphology and
Management: Executive Summary:
- All recent TTEF Newsletters:
- All recent TTEF Minutes:
- Regular Reports and Information on:
Braunton Burrows
North Devon's Biosphere Reserve
Bideford Harbour and Estuary Pilotage

DATES OF TTEF MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR:

Monday, 21st. April, 2008 at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple

Monday, 21st. July, 2008 **at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple**

Monday, 20th. October, 2008 at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple

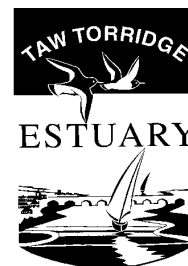
Monday, 19th. January, 2009 at Bideford Town Hall (AGM)

PLEASE NOTE:

**The July meeting would normally be held at Bideford
Town Hall, but this venue is not available.**

**We are grateful to the Civic Centre in Barnstaple
for allowing us to use the Taw Room instead**

All meetings commence at 7.00 p.m.



**Rose Day
Chairman**

**Taw Torridge Estuary Forum
The Crow's Nest
Marine Parade
INSTOW
Bideford,
North Devon.
EX39 4JN**

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website: www.ttef.org.uk