

# TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 6th. March, 2006



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## BRAUNTON MARSH PROJECT

Good progress has been made with this project since the January TTEF meeting. A grant application for funding has already been made to the NDDC Community Fund, and we will hear in April if this application has been successful. Also, LEADER+ and the AONB Sustainable Development Fund have accepted our expressions of interest, and grant applications can now be submitted for these two funds.

Please find **attached**, for your information, a Statement of Intent, setting out the background to the project.

We are very grateful to Richard Butler (UK MAB) for all of his hard work in preparing these submissions.

## BRAUNTON BURROWS FILES

At our January meeting, John Breeds (MOD) reported on the scrub clearance work, taking place at present on Braunton Burrows. John has put up posters around Braunton Burrows, and James Diamond (English Nature) has prepared an information release to explain this management work, and the success of similar work undertaken in previous years. Copies of the poster and information sheets are **attached**, and have also been placed in the Braunton Burrows Files in Braunton, Barnstaple and Bideford Public Libraries, and on the TTEF website:

[www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk)

## APPLEDORE QUAY WALL

No decision has yet been made concerning this planning application

## MUSSEL HARVESTING IN THE ESTUARY

Immediately after the last meeting, James Diamond let us have the following details of English Nature's consent to harvest mussels in the Estuary.

**Specified operations:** Trial period for harvesting of mussel *Mytilus edulis* using 'Aqualift' machinery

### Details of proposed operations:

\* Harvesting will occur two hours either side of low tide only, on no more than two days in each seven-day period.

\* No more than 3 tonnes of harvested mussel will be removed in any seven-day period.

\* No harvesting will occur on mussel beds at Pulley Ridge and Sprat Ridge.

\* Full records of dates, times and location of harvesting, and quantity and density of mussel stock, will be submitted to English Nature upon request, including GPS records of daily start/finish points.

**Timing:** Until 30 June 2006

English Nature will, of course, welcome reports of any activity, which appears to fall outside of the operations that have been consented, and is working with the Environment Agency to monitor compliance with both the EA byelaws and the EN consent.

## SHELLFISH REGULATORY ORDER

We have just received a letter from the Environment Agency, informing us that the EA will not be progressing with a Regulatory Order in the Taw Torridge Estuary for the time being. The EA considers that the existing byelaws give sufficient control measures to ensure that the mussels are not over exploited and that they can be harvested in a sustainable manner. As English Nature can, in addition to the byelaws, exert controls over the harvesting of mussels, the EA considers that there are few benefits in pursuing a Regulatory Order.

## NDDC AND TDC LIAISON

Jerry Lee (NDDC) and Ray Webster (TDC) met Tony Pratt and myself on Thursday, 2nd. March 2006, to discuss various matters concerning the Estuary, and liaison between their councils and the TTEF.

Our discussions ranged over a wide range of issues, such as: crab tiles, the control of houseboats, the removal of wrecks, planning matters, Fast Leisure Craft, pilotage in the Estuary, the Biosphere Reserve, the North Devon AONB, Estuary Management in general, and the Estuary Management Plan in particular. We also spent some time talking about how to improve two-way communication between both District Councils and the TTEF.

We are very grateful to both Ray and Jerry for their positive and constructive support.

## NORTH DEVON AND EXMOOR WALKING & CYCLING FESTIVAL 26th. APRIL TO 2nd. MAY 2006

Plenty of fresh Spring air and healthy exercise, led by trained leaders, over routes varying from gentle to strenuous. Booklets and Information are available from your nearest Tourist Information Centre or on:

[www.walkcyclenorthdevon.co.uk](http://www.walkcyclenorthdevon.co.uk)

### **FAST LEISURE CRAFT JOINT WORKING PARTY**

The final meeting of the FLC Joint Working Party took place on 26th. January 2006. At this meeting, the recommendations from the working group were finally agreed for submission to both TDC and NDDC. The 2006 summer season is fast approaching, and it is hoped that progress can now be made towards setting up an integrated strategy for the Taw Torridge Estuary.

Copies of these recommendations will be circulated to TTEF members in due course.

### **NATURAL ENGLAND PARTNERS' PROJECT ON**

#### **ACCESS TO THE ENGLISH COAST PROJECT**

The North Devon, Exmoor and West Somerset Coast (from Instow to the River Parrett, near Burnham-on-Sea) has been selected as one of four Study Areas, to explain about the Access to the English Coast Project, and to gain local knowledge and expertise about issues pertinent to both existing and potential provision for access on foot. The TTEF has been invited by Natural England to send a representative to a Stakeholder Meeting/Workshop at Porlock on 16th. March 2006.

**NOTE:** Natural England is a confederation of three partners – The Countryside Agency's Landscape, Access and Recreation Division, English Nature and the Rural Development Service.

### **SOUTH WEST WATER GUIDANCE TO THE PUBLIC**

South West Water's sewerage contractors have been tasked with cleansing some of the public sewers around the Estuary, as part of its programme of work to reduce blockages.

As a result, SWW is asking all of its customers to ensure that inappropriate material and items (such as silt, roots, rags, oil and fat) are not disposed of through drains and sewers. Any of these items should be properly disposed of via domestic or commercial refuse collections, or by taking them to a recycling centre. Where necessary, items should first be placed in a suitable container.

Fat entering the drainage system can quickly solidify, and cause blockages to both private drains and to public sewers. SWW encourages the use of properly maintained grease traps or advises its customers to allow fat to solidify in a suitable container before disposing of it via the commercial or domestic refuse collections.

Copies of the text of the two information sheets sent out by SWW on this subject are **attached**.

### **NORTH DEVON NATURAL HISTORY EVENTS FOR 2006**

Paul Madgett of the North Devon Natural History Network has kindly sent us a calendar of some of the events scheduled to take place in 2006. A copy of his schedule for the year, and a list of the National Trust events planned for the period March to June 2006 are both attached for your information.

For further information please contact:

e-mail: [madgett@baggypoint.org.uk](mailto:madgett@baggypoint.org.uk)

telephone: 01271 812617

### **AVIAN INFLUENZA**

With the worrying news that the H5N1 strain of the bird flu' virus is coming ever closer, this is just a reminder that up-to-date information can be obtained on the following websites:

[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) and

[www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)

### **NEW APPOINTMENT AT RNLI APPLIEDORE**

Our congratulations are due to Wendy Dale (RNLI Appledore), who has just been appointed as the Lifeboat Operations Manager for the Appledore Lifeboat Station. She has the distinction of being the only female volunteer Lifeboat Operations Manager for the RNLI in the whole of the country.

### **ANNUAL VISITS 2006**

Dr. Peter Beale of the Gaia Trust has very kindly invited the TTEF to visit the Trust's project at Yelland in October.

If any other members have suggestions for visits, please let me know.

### **OCEANIC CENTRE**

You may have heard on the local television news last Wednesday, that a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an Oceanic Centre has been successful. A press release concerning this project is attached, and can also be found on the TTEF website:

[www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk)

### **60th. ANNIVERSARY OF UNESCO**

As part of the 60th. Anniversary of UNESCO, the Man and the Biosphere Programme is featured on the home page of the UNESCO website:

<http://www.unesco.org/mab>

### **TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY COASTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS' GROUP**

James Diamond (English Nature) will be giving a short presentation on this Group, and its role in the review of the Shoreline Management Plan, at the April meeting.

### **DATES OF TTEF MEETINGS FOR 2006/7**

Monday, 3rd. April 2006 – Civic Centre, Barnstaple

Monday, 17th. July 2006 – Town Hall, Bideford

Monday, 16th. October 2006 – Civic Centre, Barnstaple

Monday, 15th. January 2007 (AGM) – Town Hall, Bideford

All meetings begin at 7.00 p.m.



**Rose Day  
Chairman**

**Taw Torridge Estuary Forum**

**The Crow's Nest**

**Marine Parade**

**INSTOW**

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