

Issue 28 - Spring '12

# EXE Press

Newsletter of the Exe Estuary Partnership



## In this issue:

- Farewell to Stephanie (meet Midge)
- Feedback from the Winter Forum
- Living with a Changing Coast Strategy
- New visitor experiences at RSPB reserves
- Why travelling sustainably is good for business
- Summer festivals in Exmouth

Photo Credit: Rotary Club Exmouth & District

follow us on  
**twitter**   
@Exeestuary

For the latest estuary-wide information, news and events please visit [www.exe-estuary.org](http://www.exe-estuary.org)

# A Fond Farewell

A full year as Exe Estuary Officer has passed as quickly as the flick of a dab's tail. Yet I've been fortunate to have been involved with so many exciting projects and worked alongside some of the most inspirational people that I've ever worked with.

I've found a newly revealed passion for working within conflict resolution and been given the opportunity to apply myself to areas that I have always relished, such as children's education and raising awareness about fisheries. I am thrilled to have seen the Partnership move from strength to strength during my time here, with the introduction of three new Partners and a warm welcome back to two former Partners: Exeter City Council and Dawlish Town Council.

The bi-annual clean up events have truly made a difference to the health of the estuary and have grown to be thoroughly enjoyable community events, thanks to the dedicated volunteers and local businesses offering free photographs, cruises, music, drinks and food for all volunteers. I hope to leave behind some useful resources for the estuary, so keep a look out for the new Exe Estuary Trail panels, the Estuary Species ID Guide and the unique Exe Estuary Wishing Well... the first of its kind in the UK! I was privileged to be asked to attend the Nature and Sports Euroment Conference in France to present the exceptional work that is being carried out on the Exe Estuary to manage disturbance. It's been a pleasure to work with those involved with the Patrol Boat and the Jet Ski User Group to manage users of the estuary, the dedication that they've shown is bound to ensure the success of both of these projects. I've also been lucky enough to be involved with the first stages of the Living with a Changing Coast project (LiCCo), which aims to encourage local community involvement with coastal climate change.

*"The bi-annual clean up events have truly made a difference to the health of the estuary and have grown to be thoroughly enjoyable community events,"*



The list of projects that I've been involved with is extensive and I have learnt a vast amount during this amazing experience which will carry me well into my next role. I wish all the success to the Partnership and the continuation of these projects into the future.

I have received such profound support whilst I have been with the Exe Estuary Partnership, from Partners and local users of the Exe, for which I am deeply appreciative. The people that I have been lucky enough to work alongside made my time here a thoroughly enjoyable experience. I would like to thank all of you for the faith that you placed in me to continue the important work of the Exe Estuary Partnership and I do hope that our paths will cross again.

Although it is with great sadness that I say goodbye to the Partnership, I now have the opportunity to spend some time exploring a little more of the World. High on my list of things to do is to indulge in some warm water diving in Australia and New Zealand, something that I have dreamed to do for many years. I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities that arise during my travels, although of course I will always miss the beautiful Exe Estuary and she shall always have a place close to my heart.

Thank you and best wishes,

Stephanie Clark

# Another Exe-Change?

Many of you will identify the role of Exe Estuary Officer with Stephanie Clark, who has been in post for the last year - or perhaps her predecessor Jenny Lockett. There have actually been six Exe Estuary Officers before me (I suppose that makes me EEO 007!) who have each made their individual contribution to an amazing legacy of community involvement on the Estuary. Steph in particular has set an inspiring example. I have much to learn, but I intend to continue her fantastic work, delivering the actions identified by the partner agencies on the Partnership's Management Group and helping to bring forward new projects to help balance all the diverse activities and interests on the estuary.

I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you already, and over the next few months I shall be getting stuck into all sorts of activities, working with local people and partner organisations to help promote a greater understanding of what makes the Exe Estuary such a special place. To give just a flavour, this will include:

- Running a series of school visits to Exmouth Local Nature Reserve and Exminster Marshes between May and July - making good use of the brand new ID guides!

**Exe Estuary Spring Clean Up**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012**  
12 noon - 2.00pm  
at Exmouth Local Nature Reserve

Let's get stuck in and give the Estuary a good clean ready for the summer!

Meeting Point: Imperial Recreation Ground Signway  
Travel: Free parking permits available  
Equipment: Some gloves and spades provided  
Wetters / old trainers essential

Help out at the Big Clean Up event and then join our **Free Cruise** (spaces limited) Courtesy of Stuart Line Cruises and **Free Buffet!**

If you would like to get involved with the Exe Estuary Officer:  
Midge Kelly  
Tel: 01392 382236 or 07467 662176, or  
Email: [exeeestua@devon.gov.uk](mailto:exeeestua@devon.gov.uk)

- Organising two public clean up events on 19th May and 15th September at Exmouth, with generous support from many local businesses and organisations.
- Helping local jet skiers (aka personal water craft users) with forming a new club to promote the safe and considerate enjoyment of the sport
- Helping to relaunch the Harbour Patrol Boat for its second season, with several new volunteers
- Delivering the Living with a Changing Coast project alongside officers from the Environment Agency - helping people living or working in communities around the Exe Estuary to better understand and prepare for the predicted impacts of climate change, particularly coastal erosion and flooding.
- Updating the State of the Exe report - this magnificent document presents a comprehensive overview of all aspects of the Estuary, including tourism, the local economy and the condition of the natural environment. Published in 2006, it is now in need of a refresh.

- Working with schools and educational advisors to develop an Exe-focused educational resource for engaging older students in understanding the underlying physical processes and difficult policy decisions that are associated with coastal change.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the exciting times ahead. If there is any aspect of estuary life that you would like to discuss, or you think I can help with, do please get in touch.

Midge Kelly, Exe Estuary Officer  
Tel: 01392 382236  
Email: [exeeestua@devon.gov.uk](mailto:exeeestua@devon.gov.uk)

## Feedback from Exe Estuary Winter Forum



Photo Courtesy: Stephen Kelly

The winter Exe Estuary Forum took place on 7th February 2012 in the Coaver Club, County Hall and attracted one hundred people from a wide range of organisations in different sectors. Recreational, commercial and environmental interests were represented in fairly equal proportions, and several local councillors attended.

There were presentations on a range of topics:

- A summary of the Partnership's work over the year
- The final report of the Disturbance Study
- Living with a changing coast - the LICCo project
- Lower Halsdon Farm

There was also a series of short and snappy soapbox sessions on the Exe Estuary patrol boat, the Jet Ski (PWC) User Group, ethical credentials of Exmouth Mussels, Exeter Canal and Basins Community Group, applying mobile phone technology (MPApps) to the Exe Estuary, and the Litter Free Coast and Sea campaign.

After the presentations, attendees divided into 4 workshop groups according to the part of the estuary that is of most interest to them. This was to allow discussions of existing communication opportunities that can be built upon in future to help raise awareness of the Living with a Changing Coast (LICCo) project and the Strategy being developed by the Environment Agency to manage flooding and coastal erosion around the Exe.

The presentation slides and workshop notes can be viewed on the Exe Estuary website under Events>Forum - please see [www.exe-estuary.org.uk](http://www.exe-estuary.org.uk) - the feedback from the workshops is summarised in the article on Living with a Changing Coast by Jane Lavick.

### Feedback

The 37 feedback forms completed were very positive, with 100% of feedback indicating that people agree the conference was worth attending, the venue was suitable, and that they value the work of the Exe Estuary Partnership. The feedback and comments provided will be used to improve the Forum in future. Suggested improvements will be taken on board and integrated into the planning and format of this very successful annual event.

Thank you to everyone who came along and participated.

Midge Kelly, Exe Estuary Officer



## A Unique Wishing Well Project!

A new and unique element has been brought to fundraising by the Exe Estuary Partnership and The Rotary Club of Exmouth & District. A bespoke Spiral Wishing Well, the first of its kind in the UK, was launched this February at Darts Farm in Topsham to showcase the rich diversity of wildlife and habitats that can be found on the internationally important Exe Estuary. With eye-catching illustrations by local Graphic Artist Mike Hughes, unusual facts about the estuary wildlife, activity sheets for children, leaflets and a map to help plan your trip to the Exe, it really is worth a closer look!

The costs of developing the well have been shared between the two organisations, along with a much appreciated grant from South West Water's Local Community Fund and a kind donation from the Devon Community Fund of Councillor Bernard Hughes OBE, Chairman of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and the County Councillor for Exmouth Halsdon and Woodbury.

We would also like to thank the Management of Darts Farm for their cooperation in helping us promote the Exe Estuary at their magnificent retail unit in Topsham.

In the first month alone, £100 was raised through the Wishing Well! All funds raised will be split between The Rotary Club and the Exe Estuary Partnership, and will be dedicated to charitable causes and local community projects around the Exe Estuary.

You may hear the spin of coins as they drop to the bottom of the vortex as you pass by, so why not stop and take a look at the attractive Exe Estuary message boards and find out some fascinating facts about the wildlife of the Exel!

For more information on the Exe Estuary or the wishing wells please see the websites of either the Exe Estuary Management Partnership at [www.exe-estuary.org](http://www.exe-estuary.org) or the Exmouth Rotary at [www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk](http://www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk)

Stephanie Clark, Exe Estuary Partnership

We are now inviting your suggestions for projects around the Exe Estuary that can be funded by our Wishing Well. Perhaps there is a project that you have been wanting to see put into action for a number of years, or perhaps you hold a brainstorming session with your local community group... wherever your idea comes from, share them with us at [exeestua@devon.gov.uk](mailto:exeestua@devon.gov.uk) or 01392 382236.



# Living with a Changing Coast (LiCCo)



## What's happening with the Exe Estuary Flood & Coastal Risk Management Strategy?

Development of the strategy has been delayed by about a year due to the issue of new national predictions and guidance on climate change and sea level rise. This has meant that technical studies have had to be repeated to reflect this new information. The team developing the strategy are now using a figure of 75cm for the rise in sea level by 2110 (compared with 2010 levels) to assess flood management options around the Exe Estuary. This is less than the previous estimate of one metre increase in sea level rise by 2110, which was used before the issue of the new guidance.

The Baseline Flood and Coastal Risk Assessment Report has now been reissued to partner organisations on the Steering Group, such as local authorities, Network Rail and Natural England. This report provides an update on issues including physical processes in the estuary, how existing flood defences are performing and an estimate of how different wildlife habitats may be affected by sea level rise.

At the end of April 'high level options' were identified for managing the expected sea level rise in different locations around the Exe Estuary. In late June this will be followed by the 'alignment and types' report, which will show where flood defences are needed and suggest the forms that these defences might take in the next 20, 50 and 100 years.

The strategy team aim to make their initial findings available on the project website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/121323.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/121323.aspx) and via press releases. Briefings and workshops with partner organisations, landowners and local authorities are also planned to help explain the issues, shape the approach and gather feedback. A wider programme of engagement with local communities and groups is also planned over summer.

## Feedback from Forum Workshops

The Living with a Changing Coast (LiCCo) project held its first public workshops at the Exe Estuary Forum in February to try to find out what people already know about coastal change and how they would prefer to receive information from the Environment Agency. Groups from Exmouth, Dawlish Warren, Exminster to Starcross, and Lympstone to Topsham considered the following questions:

- What do you think of the information you currently receive about coastal change and how it will impact on your community? (e.g. method, amount, how often, language, who receives it)
- What do you need to know/what information would help you to understand more about how the coast might change around the Exe Estuary?

# Where would you like to meet us?

Many of you who attended the Forum suggested local events and venues that we could use or attend to help spread coastal change messages more widely to the general public. As a result LiCCo and the Exe Estuary Partnership will be around and about at venues such as the Exmouth Earth Festival in August. More suggestions of good community venues and events you'd like to see us at around the estuary are always welcome.

## I-remember the Exe

The Living with a Changing Coast project team and the Environment Agency have commissioned a piece of work to look at how the local shoreline has changed over the years. The Devon Flood and Coastal Change Research Study will involve the gathering of information about the magnitude of historic flood events, storms and high tides around the Exe Estuary and how they affected local communities. The study will also find out how and when land was reclaimed locally from the sea. All manner of information sources will be explored and catalogued, including old newspaper articles and books, drainage and estate records, along with historic images from photos, postcards, drawings and paintings. If you have any historic material that provides an insight into how the Exe Estuary used to look, or if you're involved with a local museum or historical society and would be interested in exhibiting the material collected, we'd love to hear from you.



## Now, calling all Geography teachers!

Would you like to help us develop a learning resource pack or short film to use with your students that actively engages them in sea level rise and climate change on the Exe Estuary? The Living with a Changing Coast project aims to improve understanding and awareness of coastal change amongst all sections of the Exe Estuary community. We are keen to get your views on what kinds of educational resources would work best to get students animated and interested in coastal change. We are looking for teachers representing different key stages to come together in a short workshop session in late June or July to share expertise, so that we can produce great materials that will be of real value to you and your students. Please get in touch.

Contact Jane Lavick, Principal Engagement Officer  
- LiCCo Project  
Tel **01392 316181** or email  
[jane.lavick@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:jane.lavick@environment-agency.gov.uk)



## A new view at RSPB Exminster Marshes



Photo Credit: Emma Scott



## When was the last time you visited an RSPB reserve?



Photo Credit: Gemma Dunn



Thanks to Pennon Environmental Trust, visitors to Exminster Marshes are treated to a new view on the reserve at this special time of year. Wet grassland sites, like Exminster Marshes are notoriously difficult to show to people without disturbing the very birds and other wildlife that they've come to see. These flat featureless landscapes, characteristic of breeding wader habitat present a particular challenge to the RSPB to enable people to get close enough to really see the amazing wet grassland world.

Rising to the challenge the RSPB have installed a new viewing screen, accessed from the existing public footpath, which leads alongside the reserve and railway to the Turf Hotel. The view extends across the marshes and out to wetland features used regularly by our wetland wildlife. Already people are reporting great sightings through the screen including common crane, a pair of oystercatcher, little ringed plover and a pair of displaying lapwing, not to mention a prowling fox!

The screen and the improvements made to the footpaths to date are just the first of many measures to enhance the visitor welcome at the site - others include brand new signage and bicycle racks.

The spring/early summer period must be one of the most exciting times at the Exe Estuary Reserves. It is that season of transition when the wintering birds leave and the spring migrants arrive and most importantly when the breeding waders begin their display. The recent warm sunny weather makes both us and the birds feel that spring has well and truly arrived, the blossom is in full bloom, the cuckoo flowers peep up through the grass sward and we see the first butterflies take flight. It is at this time of year that the scrub and dense bramble patches along the boundaries just seem to come alive. The warblers start to sing and the hedgerows twitch with birds with their beaks full of fluffy and twiggy vegetation, as family life has begun in earnest. So if you don't plan to go far this spring, why not call in at your local reserve and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season?

Sally Mills, Site Manager

We all know that nature reserves are great places for wildlife, but did you know that many nature reserves are just as equipped to deliver a great time for people too? As our lives get busier and busier, the RSPB feels it is important that we take time to enjoy the great outdoors, wide open spaces, fresh air and wildlife. Our reserves provide a chance to unwind, clear thoughts, stretch legs and to enjoy the wonderful natural heritage this country has to offer.

Here on the Exe we have four nature reserves open to the public - Exminster and Powderham Marshes, Bowling Green Marsh and Matford Marsh. Each reserve offers fantastic views of birds and other wildlife, but also provides a free 'green space' for the local community to use. It's not just bird watchers who appreciate these reserves - photographers, dog walkers, cyclists, joggers and artists are all found here regularly, often without a pair of binoculars in sight!

The RSPB strongly believes that inspiring children to become interested in nature is one of the most important things we can do as conservationists, and so the reserves are becoming more family friendly with regular activities aimed at children and better facilities for families. We are currently developing a family activity area on the Exminster Marshes which will provide a space for hands-on exploration. We have already altered the gates on the nature trail (leading to the Turf Locks Hotel) from

the main car park) to allow push chairs through more easily, and have installed picnic tables. We have also just received planning permission to install a pond-dipping platform which is a great way of giving children that hands-on experience that they enjoy so much. Our wildlife explorers group meet once a month on the Exe reserves to give children aged between 5-12 years the chance to get close to nature. To request a programme of activities please contact me at [gemma.dunn@rspb.org.uk](mailto:gemma.dunn@rspb.org.uk) or call **01392 824614**.

Finally, coming along to one of our organised events is a great way to learn about the sites if you haven't visited before, or if you want to improve your knowledge. Our events are held throughout the year, allowing us to make the most of seasonal changes to wildlife. Including walks about dragonflies, bat evenings, dawn chorus walks, willow weaving workshops, beginners' bird watching courses and night time nature walks, we are sure that we have something to suit most people's interests. Visiting one of our reserves to learn more about local conservation also counts as a 'step' in our latest campaign 'Stepping Up for Nature', which encourages everyone to take simple actions that, when combined, make significant changes for wildlife. For more details on 'Stepping Up for Nature' visit <http://www.rspb.org.uk/steppingup/>.

Details of forthcoming events can be found on [www.rspb.org.uk/events](http://www.rspb.org.uk/events) or by calling our regional office on **01392 432691**.

Gemma Dunn - Visitor Officer

# Exmouth Festival 2012 is fast approaching...

From Thursday 31st May - Friday 8th June there will be nine unmissable days of free community events of Music, Dance, Film, Theatre and Visual Arts at venues across Exmouth.

Over half term there will be a wide range of activities by and for children and young people, including carnival workshops, a flea circus and the Jurassic Juggler. New this year, will be a day of performances featuring new and emerging artists from Exmouth. Tuesday 5th June will be a whole day focusing on Folk Music, featuring artists such as: Phil and Hannah, The Alchemist's Wardrobe and 3 Daff. Monkeys. Other highlights include Gypsy Blues from Jerry Harmon, Devon hip-hoppers The Breaks Collective and jazz chanteuse Louise Parker.

As well as traditional Theatre favourites such as the contemporary clowning capers of Le Navete Bête the festival is pleased to welcome Kinky and Quirky's Burlesque and Boogie Night at the Pavilion.

The Vintage Mobile Cinema will be in the Manor Gardens on Sunday 3rd June and the Strand in Monday 4th June showing Film archive footage of local life and landmarks.

## Spirit of the Exe joins with Earth Festival in Exmouth

Following the success of the 'Exe-Travaganza - Spirit of the Exe' festivals in Exmouth in 2009 and Dawlish Warren in 2010, this year sees the Exe Estuary Partnership in festive mood once again. The Partnership will be working with Exmouth Town Council to put on the Exmouth Earth Festival over the weekend of 4th and 5th August on the grassed area adjacent to the Pavilion. It will be a celebration of local food, local music and the local environment - with free and functional festival fun for all the family.

Come along to a weekend of celebrations focussing on Exmouth's stunning estuary landscape and fantastic natural resources. Occupying a unique position at the gateway to the Jurassic Coast, the town will welcome the South West Cultural Olympiad's much anticipated mooring of 'Nowhere Island' just off the beach, intended to get us thinking about sustainability and protecting our beautiful town.

Poppy the Pilosaur will be in attendance alongside fascinating workshops for children and adults alike and Transition Town

# Kite Festival Flying High Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May 2012

This will be the sixth annual Kite Festival in Exmouth organised by the Rotary Club of Exmouth and District, bringing in kite flying teams and soloists from around the country and from abroad. There will be great synchronised displays and kites of all shapes and sizes flying high over Exmouth once again.

Festival Organiser Malcolm Pressey of Exmouth and District Rotary Club says, 'As ever we have put everything we can into this event to make it special. The kite flyers love it because of its special and beautiful location on the side of the River Exe. Children love it because they can get involved in flying kites they have made and it sparks their imagination. Families love it as it is a great way to spend a few hours in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Rotary loves it because it helps the club to raise funds for charities nationally, regionally and locally. Over six years, through the kite festival, we have raised over £60,000 for good causes already'.

Paula Hullett from Children's Hospice South West says 'We are extremely grateful to the Rotary Club of Exmouth & District for the money they have given to help us with our essential work. We wish them well for another high flying success with their Kite Festival this year'.

The Kite Festival is now a fixture in the Exmouth calendar and is considered so important that East Devon District Council has agreed to delay the remedial work on the Imperial Recreation Ground to allow it and the sister event, the Joey the Lips concert on 8th June, to be staged this year.

The Rotary Kite Festival will be held on Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th May 2012 - 10am to 5pm at the Imperial Recreation Ground, Exmouth, EX8 1DG. It is a great value event, with free entrance for children and a nominal charge of just £2.50 per adult.

In addition to kite flying there will be plenty of other attractions from craft stalls to dodgems and from Punch and Judy to wildlife. Our food area will be better than ever providing an opportunity to linger longer and just enjoy the ambience of the event. We would also like to thank our many sponsors who are local traders, including our principal sponsors Exmouth Town Council, Devon Cliffs Holiday Park and Palmers Whittton & Laing.

Find out more on [www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk](http://www.exmouthrotaryclub.co.uk)

Exmouth and District Rotary Club



Photo Credits: Rotary Club Exmouth & District



As one of the venues selected to be part of the Cultural Olympiad, Exmouth is proud to welcome State of Emergency's Desert Crossings Dance performance. For a more estuarine note, why not come on an Exmouth Shanty Cruise with Stuart Line cruises? These start from Wednesday 6th June, leaving from the Docks at 7pm for an evening of excitement, entertainment and song with Exmouth's only buoy band. Tickets are £10 per person with all proceeds donated to the festival. Listen to a selection of Shanties and Forbitters whilst enjoying the stunning scenery and perhaps a drink from the on board cash bar to wash down the unique entertainment. To book a place ring **01395 222144**.

For more information, please visit the website [www.exmouthfestival.org.uk](http://www.exmouthfestival.org.uk) or pick up a programme from Exmouth Town Hall.

Exmouth will be offering re-skilling sessions to resurrect ancient crafts. With an array of live music, fresh sea food, loads of stalls, games and much, much more this is an event to add to your diary.

If you'd like to come with a stall just get in touch:

Midge Kelly, Exe Estuary Officer

Tel: **01392 382236** or [midge.kelly@devon.gov.uk](mailto:midge.kelly@devon.gov.uk)

Carla Hiley, Exmouth Town Council Arts Manager

Tel: **01395 276167** or [artsmanager@exmouth.gov.uk](mailto:artsmanager@exmouth.gov.uk)



Photo Credits: Exe Estuary Partnership

# Sustainable travel makes business sense

Devon County Council is keen to support organisations that encourage people to travel sustainably and is offering businesses:

- Grants to support sustainable travel (up to 100% funded)
- Travel Devon Roadshows - route planning and travel advice for individuals
- Free adult cycle training, support and advice
- Free support and advice on implementing car sharing in your organisation
- Help to implement travel planning measures for your organisation

## Supporting sustainable travel at your organisation will:

- Reduce car parking congestion
- Improve access to your site for staff, visitors and customers
- Aid your staff recruitment and retention
- Reduce your business mileage costs
- Enable a healthier and more productive workforce

Want to know more? [www.devon.gov.uk/traveltowork](http://www.devon.gov.uk/traveltowork)

To get in touch or join our transport business network: [traveltowork@devon.gov.uk](mailto:traveltowork@devon.gov.uk)




# Treasure (and Murder) on the Exe!



Award winning local company Treasure Trails have teamed up with Heavitree Brewery Plc, to produce a new way of exploring the Exe Estuary, with the launch of two new Treasure Trails (or should that be Treasure Tr-A-les?) following the east and west banks of the River Exe. These two cycling trails invite people of all ages to explore the diverse environment of the Exe Estuary, whilst having fun solving sneaky clues along the way.

Building on the astonishing success of Treasure Trails Devon, which saw over thirty thousand 'trailers' out exploring the Devon countryside last year with their quirky murder mystery, treasure hunt or spy mission format trails, these two new trails will bring the Exe Estuary environment to life as the trailers search for answers to mysterious clues hidden in familiar landmarks, information boards, monuments, plaques and even public houses! Each answer indicates a place name, location or date which is then crossed off one by one until only one answer remains - the location of "The Heavenly Hop" in the case of the Exe Estuary East Treasure Hunt Trail, or the murderer of Dr Phil McGlassup in the solving of the Exe Estuary West Murder Mystery Trail.

It's all just a bit of fun, of course and the product of a very active imagination by creators, husband and wife team, Rod and Sandy Tilke, who manage the Devon area of nationwide company Treasure Trails. These two new trails each provide an

opportunity for the whole family to get out and about exploring the Estuary, whilst getting fresh air and exercise - and solving daudarly clues! If you deduce the correct answers on the Exe Estuary East Treasure Hunt you can reveal the location of the hidden treasure - and then continue the story by solving the Exe Estuary West Murder Mystery Trail! Successful detectives can enter a prize draw to win £100 of beer or soft drinks - and even a Treasure Tr-Ale trophy!

Treasure Trails can be downloaded from the company's website, [www.treasuretrails.co.uk](http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk), or purchased as convenient A5 booklets from a range of retail outlets in the area, including the participating Heavitree Brewery pubs along the route. Treasure Trails can be completed at your own pace and whenever you want, making them an ideal activity for those days when the weather is not quite good enough for the beach.

The Exe Estuary East Treasure Hunt runs for 7 1/2 miles from Exmouth to Topsham and takes around 4 hours. From Exmouth it follows the National Cycle Network Route 2 along the east bank of the River Exe to Lympstone, visiting The Globe Inn and The Swan Inn along the way, then finishes at The Passage House Inn in Topsham.

The Exe Estuary West Murder Mystery Trail runs for 9 1/2 miles from Matford Park & Ride in Exeter to Dawlish Warren and takes around 5 hours. It follows dedicated cycle paths through the Matford Marshes and along the canal and estuary to Starcross, visiting The Atmospheric Railway Inn, then The Anchor Inn at Cockwood, before finishing at The Mount Pleasant Inn in Dawlish Warren.

For further information contact: Sandy Tilke, Treasure Trails Devon. Tel: 07960 630 900 E: [devon@treasuretrails.co.uk](mailto:devon@treasuretrails.co.uk) [www.treasuretrails.co.uk](http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk)

## Sponsors sought for Topsham to Turf Jubilee Swim

Leading law firm Michelmores has undertaken the sponsorship and management of the Estuary League of Friends' annual Topsham to Turf fundraising swim and is currently looking for sponsors from the business community to support the popular charity event, which will take place on Saturday 11th August. The event attracts more than 200 swimmers and raises funds for the Estuary League of Friends.

Michelmores have a great deal of experience in organising events and maximising exposure for business sponsors. Every new sponsor will benefit from great publicity whilst, in underwriting the costs of the event, helping to maximise the benefits for this worthwhile charity.

Entries for the race will open soon, but if you'd like to join in the fun, or become a sponsor, contact Jeff Nicholls, Business Development Manager at Michelmores on **01392 688688** or at [jeff.nicholls@michelmores.com](mailto:jeff.nicholls@michelmores.com)

## The Adventures of Don Quixote by Bicycle

- see La Mancha by Bicycle, and live to tell the tale!

Burn The Curtain, an innovative Devon based outdoor theatre company, create fun and engaging outdoor promenade shows for families and adults of all ages. This summer they are performing 'The Adventures of Don Quixote by Bicycle'!

Don Quixote has spent his whole life reading about the heroic exploits of others in books, but now, with a little help from his reluctant squire Sancho Panza, and you, the audience, he's going to bring those stories to life, whatever the consequences!

Travelling together on bicycles, actors and audiences will experience the colourful and misguided escapades of Don Quixote - self styled Knight of La Mancha. This exciting piece of interactive family theatre, involves actors riding custom designed bikes; tall, wide, beautiful and strange, these are cycles that even a medieval knight might be proud to ride. Before you see the show, you can take part in a workshop where you too can turn your bike into a horse or create your own costume.

As part of Exeter's Ignite Theatre Festival, the show is being premiered in July with a series of performances along the Exeter Canal Cycle Route. So bring your own wheels and a sense of adventure!



## Learn to Nordic Walk along the Exe Estuary and Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve

With the lighter evenings here why not give Nordic Walking a try with a free taster session with Nordic Walking UK instructor Fiona Swan. Throughout the spring and summer Fiona will be running free taster sessions and Nordic Walking UK's 'Learn to Nordic Walk' programme at Dawlish Warren and along the Exe estuary.

Why not sign up for a session and find out more about this increasingly popular activity. Regular fitness walks also running on Tuesday evenings.

Nordic walking is about using your upper body as well as your legs to make you walk faster and feel lighter.

By using poles for propulsion you burn 20-40% more calories than ordinary walking, so it's a great way to tone

up and lose weight. The poles also reduce the pressure on the knees and joints and the gentle upper body movement can also be beneficial for individuals with neck, shoulder and back problems.

"It's suitable for all ages and fitness levels, simple to learn and really sociable," says Fiona Swan, local Nordic Walking UK Instructor.

To find out more please call Fiona on **07531 729383**, **01626 890120** or go to [www.nordicwalkingdevon.co.uk](http://www.nordicwalkingdevon.co.uk)



## What's on at Powderham Castle?

### Events for your diary May/June 2012

This season there are even more reasons to visit the wonderful family home of the Earl of Devon with new attractions and a wonderful calendar of events. And this year you can even come back on another day for FREE! For more information please visit [www.powderham.co.uk](http://www.powderham.co.uk)

#### Woodland Wednesdays - 30th May

Join an informative walk & talk through the peaceful Woodland Garden with TV Gardener, Toby Buckland and have a delicious cream tea in the Courtyard Tea Room. For details or to book call 01626 890243. Only £15 per person.

#### Kings & Queens Week - Saturday 2 to Friday 8 June

A new themed week especially to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee that children will love. So dress up in your finery to meet previous Kings & Queens and learn about their lives (and deaths!). Sessions at set times throughout the day. Pick up your session ticket on arrival (cost included in admission charge).

#### Fathers Day - Sunday 17 June

We are inviting all 'Dads' to visit for FREE when accompanied by a paying child. Grab a bow and have a go at archery with Exeter Company of Archers. Hawkridge Birds of Prey will be displaying their wonderful birds which you can handle too.

### Opening Times:

1 April to 2 November 2012

Sunday to Friday and the following

Saturdays: 2 June, 25 August.

11.00am to 4.30pm (to 5.30pm

22 July to 31 August)

The last guided tour is 1 hour before closing and at 2.30pm on Fridays.

Powderham Castle is 8 miles from Exeter on the A379 Dawlish Road.

For more information,

Tei: **01626 890243** or visit [www.powderham.co.uk](http://www.powderham.co.uk)

#### Day Ticket:

Adult: £10.50, Senior: £9.50, Child (4-16yrs): £8.50, Family (2+2): £32.00

#### Season Ticket:

Adult: £25.00, Child: £15.00, Family: £65.00



Starting and finishing at the Piazza on Exeter's historic Quayside, you will travel along a 2 mile stretch of the Cycle Route. The show is suitable for audiences of all ages, for further details [www.burnthecurtain.co.uk](http://www.burnthecurtain.co.uk), tickets available from The BikesHed Theatre ([www.bikeshedtheatre.co.uk](http://www.bikeshedtheatre.co.uk)). Each show has a limited number of tickets, to avoid disappointment please book early. Additional performances will take place in August on the Tarika Trail (North Devon), these shows starting and finishing at Fremington Quay.

# Brand new Guide to the Species of the Exe

Estuaries are extreme habitats. The plants and animals that live there often need special features or particular behaviour to withstand the massive twice-daily fluctuations in water level, salinity, temperature and water flow brought by the changing tides. Relatively few species are able to survive such hostile conditions. Now there's a colourful and convenient ID guide to help us get to know some of them.

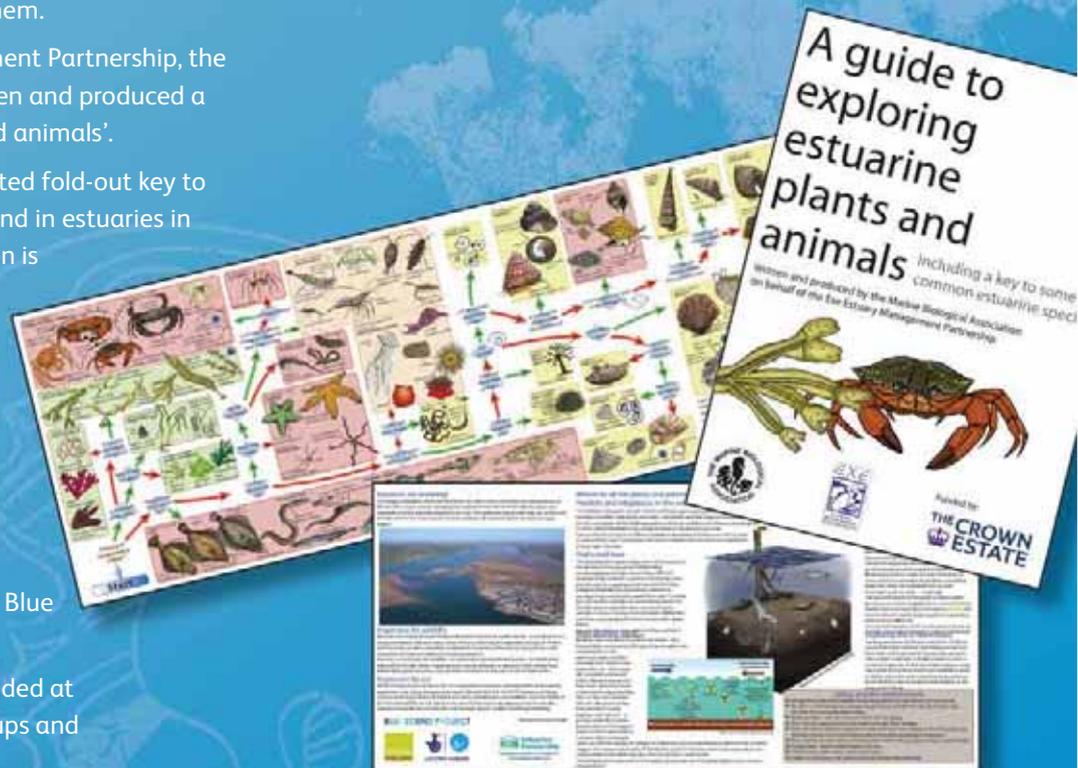
On behalf of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership, the Marine Biological Association has written and produced a 'guide to exploring estuarine plants and animals'.

The guide includes a beautifully illustrated fold-out key to some common species that may be found in estuaries in south-west England. Further information is included on estuarine habitats, foodwebs and exploring life in an estuary.

The design and writing of the guide was funded by the Crown Estate as part of its Marine Stewardship Programme and further support came from the South Devon AONB Estuaries Partnership and the Big Lottery funded Blue Sound Project.

A limited number of guides will be provided at cost price or free of charge to local groups and

organisations. Copies will also be available to purchase from the Marine Biological Association for £2.50 + P&P. All funds will be used to support further development and print runs of the guide. For more information, please contact the Exe Estuary Officer, Midge Kelly at [exeestua@devon.gov.uk](mailto:exeestua@devon.gov.uk).



## Membership Form

Exe Estuary Management Partnership,  
c/o Devon County Council, Lucombe House, County Hall,  
Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QW  
email: [exeestua@devon.gov.uk](mailto:exeestua@devon.gov.uk) Tel: 01392 382236 / 07967 456376

Title	First Name	Surname
Position		
Organisation		
Address		
		Postcode
Tel		
Email		

Receive Exe Press: by post  by email

Interests: Local Community  Conservation  Recreation and Access  Harbour Services  Commerce   
Fisheries  Water Quality  Agriculture and Land Use  Heritage  Coastal erosion and flood risk

Groups: Crab Collectors  Boat Clubs  Funding  Public  Forum  Parish Councils

# FOR PEOPLE, FOR WILDLIFE, FOR THE FUTURE

