



EXE-Press

Winter 2004-2005 Newsletter of the Exe Estuary Partnership Issue 9

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WANTED

Your views on the
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For the latest on estuary-wide information, news and events check out the Exe Estuary website: www.exe-estuary.org

Attention Boat Owners! Dealing with Oil

In the last issue of Exe-Press we reported on ship to ship transfers in Lyme Bay and the risk of an oil spill. Since then several people involved in managing the Exe have been on an oil spill training course in the South Hams. In this issue we look at what you can do to reduce the risk of causing pollution and what facilities are available for dealing with an oil spill within the estuary.

Take care with your oil!

Oil on the water and shore is one of the ugliest forms of marine pollution. It harms plants and animals, damages rivers, groundwater and the soil, and can destroy natural habitats and drinking water supplies. Although it is an offence to cause pollution of controlled waters, either deliberately or accidentally, oil is the most commonly reported type of water pollution and causes over 16% of all pollution incidents annually.

In order to minimise the risk of releasing oil into water, the Environment Agency makes a number of recommendations to boat users in their free leaflet 'Oil Care on your Boat'. These recommendations include keeping a stock of absorbent materials (e.g. sand, earth or commercial products) on site or on your boat to deal with spillages, and making sure all crew are trained in their use. It is important not to attempt to hose down any spillage or clean up with detergents or emulsifiers as these can also harm the environment.

The risk of pollution from craft is increased during refuelling, servicing or bilge pumping so when re-fuelling leave some space free in the tank to avoid spillage during normal motion of the vessel. Change your oil storage containers regularly because prolonged exposure to the sun can cause oil inside the storage containers to expand, leading to vapour and spill risk. Onboard provide a drip tray under inboard engines and gearboxes, or provide oil tight structural members around the engine to prevent contamination of the bilge. In addition, fill portable fuel tanks and spare fuel containers away from the water's edge.

Any used oils, such as engine and gear box

oil, should be taken to an oil bank for recycling. There are two oil banks which are convenient for boat users on the Exe Estuary; Exeter Recycling Centre on the Marsh Barton Industrial Estate (01392 433984), and the Exmouth Recycling Centre, Knowle Hill (01395 444146). To find the nearest oil bank, wherever you are, contact the Oil Bank Helpline at www.oilbankline.org.uk. Do not mix used oil with any other substances before disposal as this makes recycling extremely difficult.

Around the estuary, there are various facilities available to help boat users ensure minimum amounts of oil enter the water.

There are basic pump out facilities at Exeter Canal Basin, along with a large tank for disposing of oil and one for oily water. At Trouts Boatyard in Topsham, there is an oil sock in stock, which can be put around any boats leaking oil to contain spills. They also have oil absorbent sheets which can be laid over the spill, on land or on water, which absorb oil whilst leaving water. Absorbents, booms and bunding are all kept in stock and are available for sale at the Retreat Boatyard in Topsham. They also have a bunded tanker which can be used by their customers to dispose of used engine oil. At Exmouth Marina there is a waste oil tank for use by berth holders, and they hold a stock of booms and absorbents for their own use, in the case of a spill in the marina. Any good chandler will sell booms, bunding and other oil absorbers for use onboard a vessel.

For more information please see www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/105385/ppg14feb04_127108.pdf

New Interpretation Centre for Exe Wildlife and the Jurassic Coast

Exmouth is extraordinarily lucky to be located at the meeting point of two adjoining internationally-important sites. As the primary Western Gateway town to the World Heritage Site 'Jurassic Coast' and situated at the mouth of the Exe Estuary, the potential for a visitor experience in the town, promoting our natural environment, is huge. Local people, local authorities and Exe Estuary Partnership representatives have been heavily involved in recent months promoting proposals for a new, internationally-important interpretation and education centre which will raise awareness of the wildlife of the Exe and its environs, together with the Jurassic Coast, and will bring people together with the natural environment in a stress-free way for both. For further information please contact David Conway, Promotion Group Project Leader (Tel: 01395 264520) or the Exe Estuary Officer.

A Feasibility Study for a new centre is underway, which has been funded by a range of organisations including the Exe Estuary Partnership through the Cycleau project (see p.4), Local Authorities and the South West Regional Development Agency.

The Exe - One of the 7 wonders of the South West

The BBC TV series 'The British Isles – a natural history' featured the Exe Estuary in a follow up

programme broadcast on 29th November.

People from Devon, Cornwall and Somerset voted for their top 7 sites in the region. The Exe Estuary came out as one of the top 7

sites, for its natural beauty, good bird watching and international importance. One of the other 7 wonders was the East Devon 'Jurassic Coast' World

Heritage Site. We have a lot to be proud of!

Bill Oddie's also been filming on the Exe Estuary recently and the results are due on television in the Spring.



Photos: BBC



The Cormorant

*"The common cormorant or shag –
Lays eggs inside a paper bag,
The reason you will see no doubt –
It is to keep the lightning out.
But what these unobservant birds
Have never noticed is that herds
Of wandering bears may come with buns
And steal the bags to hold the crumbs."*

ANON

from Verse and Worse publ Faber and Faber
a private collection by Arnold Silcock

Cormorants are under the spotlight.

Earlier this year Ben Bradshaw, Minister for Nature Conservation and Fisheries, announced changes to the licensing system for the control of the cormorant population. He said "We must continue to look for non-lethal methods of managing the cormorant population. But it is clear that they do not address the problem in all areas. The new system will be carefully monitored to ensure the conservation status of the cormorant population is not threatened. The mathematical modelling suggests the cormorant population will fall somewhat before stabilising well above its historic level."

(DEFRA Press Release 16th September 2004).



Photo: RSPB

Police Patrol Update

After the launch of a new water-based police patrol for the Exe last summer, the Police are reviewing their ability to continue the initiative into next year. Approximately 200 warnings have already been issued to water users who were speeding or behaving dangerously. There have been no prosecutions yet, but a log of all warnings is being kept by the police: repeat offenders will be prosecuted. All parties involved in supporting the patrol to date, feel that the policing presence on the Exe has helped to improve safety. There is still some way to go to make our waters safe for all, but it's a step in the right direction. We would be interested in hearing your views. If you feel you could offer your services to the Police to help with the patrol – either your time or equipment – please contact the Force switchboard on 08452 777444 and ask for PC Andy Squires or, from May onwards you can try the boat mobile on 07764 631449 where messages can be left if people have had any incidents' or concerns.



Photo: Richard A. Knott

Goosemoor

A pioneering engineering project for RSPB

The loss of feeding areas is one of the biggest threats facing our coastal wildlife. Some estimates suggest we may lose over 25,000 hectares of intertidal mud by 2050 due to sea level rise – an area equivalent to 35,000 football pitches! This is the reason why the RSPB has installed a groundbreaking piece of engineering at its Goosemoor nature reserve in Topsham.

The aim of the project is to demonstrate how a wetland site can be both safeguarded and improved using a mechanism called Regulated Tidal Exchange, or RTE. This involves the controlled exchange of seawater onto land behind the existing sea defences, through an engineered structure such as a sluice or a tide-gate. The goal is the creation of new saline or brackish habitats that displaced waterbirds can feed or even breed on.

At Goosemoor, the RSPB has installed a self-regulating tide-gate. This is the first such device to be used in the UK, and it had to be imported from the United States. Goosemoor was chosen to pioneer the regulated tidal exchange approach in Britain because it is thought to be typical of sites which would gain the most benefit from the system. Among the main reasons behind the choice of the RSPB site are the fact that the land is vulnerable to flooding. It is thought to be ecologically under-performing, and because intertidal habitats are likely to enhance the area.

The benefits of the RTE approach are that it allows precise control over the movement of seawater into and out of the site. Crucially, the site can be flooded without affecting adjacent property.

A lot of excavation and engineering work has been carried out at the site to provide breeding and wintering habitat for different species of waterfowl. The work will ultimately help the Exe

Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) contribute to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets for saline lagoon, mudflat and salt marsh, and turn an area of previously under-performing land into a wildlife haven. To check how well the experimental scheme is doing, the RSPB will be monitoring water levels, salinity, changes in vegetation and invertebrates, accretion (the build-up of mud), erosion and bird usage. The early signs are promising, with groups of dark-bellied Brent geese and waders using the site within weeks of the work being completed.

The site was officially opened at a ceremony on 17th December 2004, but it is hoped that over the coming year, Goosemoor will attract visits from specialists who want to see the regulated tidal exchange approach in practice. The RSPB is also hoping to eventually provide viewing areas for the public, with interpretation boards to encourage educational visits from students and school groups.

The cost of the Goosemoor project has been met through a partnership of the RSPB, the Environment Agency, English Nature and DEFRA. The RSPB hopes the lessons learned through the project will help to build an understanding of the potential uses of regulated tidal exchange, demonstrate the flood defence/management benefits of the approach as a cost-effective source of compensatory habitat, and improve the biodiversity of a potentially important area.

EXE-Press yourself



In the last issue of Exe-Press we reported on our work to look at the state of the River Exe catchment. Through the EC Interreg IIIb funded 'Cycleau' project many organisations in the south-west are working with the Environment Agency to consider how activities upstream are influencing estuaries downstream. Over recent months, Maya has been studying the condition of the Exe Estuary itself in more detail.

State of the Exe

Our latest step in working towards a promising future for the Exe Estuary has been the State of the Exe Estuary Environment Report which we completed in draft at the end of 2004. This report will be acting as Part 1 of our management review. In this document we have tried to capture the current status of the health of the Exe Estuary. For example, water quality has improved but salmon stocks continue to decline. Development pressure around the estuary is a significant issue, with

population increase estimated at 7 times the national average. The image below shows how we discovered that 13% of the partnerships' management area is urbanised. We have looked at trends over the past decade and more, with some promising results but also a few disappointing observations. Quotes from local people show how they feel about the Exe, how its' changing and their thoughts on some current issues. This 'State of the Exe' report provides a baseline from which we will review the existing Management Plan.

Exe Estuary Management Plan Review

With the valuable information gathered in Part 1 of our review and experience gained so far by the Exe Estuary Partnership and its partners, we will be considering how good the existing Exe Estuary Management Plan is to guide us in future years. Part 2 of our management review will involve looking at the existing

policies and actions and asking many people to be involved in updating the Plan. What can be done to improve the balance between the many, varied users of the Exe and its valuable natural environment?

We'll need your help!

In 2005 we will be holding various meetings and encouraging you to participate in events to explore life in and around the estuary. Whether you live by or visit the estuary, whether you want to see change or no change... we want to know your views and dreams for the estuary's future.

- What do you love most about the estuary?
- What worries or concerns you?
- What would you like to see the Exe Estuary Partnership doing?



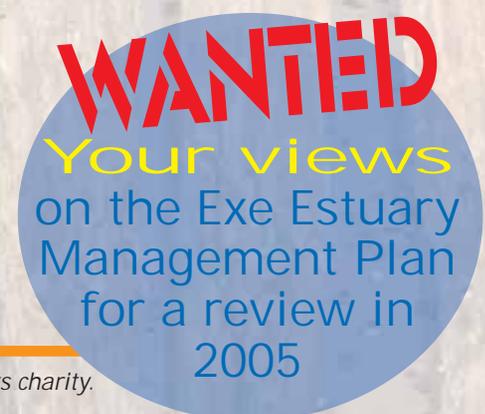
- What do you think needs changing on or around the Estuary?

You are the reason that the Exe Estuary Partnership exists and we want to ensure that we are supporting all the people who use and love the estuary – anglers, walkers, sailors, cyclists, bait collectors, swimmers, dog walkers, bird watchers, farmers, fishermen, teachers and many more! We need to hear what is important to you so that we can move into the millennium with confidence... confidence that we have enough information to inform our decisions and confident that we have your support.

Please come along to our management review days in 2005 and offer us your valuable opinions! Details will be provided on the Exe Estuary Website (www.exe-estuary.org) in early 2005, in the next edition of Exe-Press (Summer 2005) or please contact Maya Plass for further information (Tel: 01392 383130 Email: Maya.Plass@devon.gov.uk).



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New Harbour Authority

It may seem that things have gone quiet with the proposal for a new harbour authority, but Exeter City Council has been busy drafting new legislation. Their intention is to relinquish themselves of the responsibility for navigation throughout the estuary and help to establish a new independent harbour authority under central Government's Trust Port guidance.

Whilst Exeter City Council is busy developing the detailed proposals, the Exe Estuary Partnership's Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is taking a back-seat and awaiting any proposals that it might comment on. Consultation on proposed new legislation would be a statutory requirement, led by the City Council and is anticipated sometime in 2005. The JAC agreed in March 2004 that they would not support or otherwise Exeter City Council's proposal until the detailed business plan had been produced. However, the individual partners have expressed that they are keen for Exeter City Council to go ahead. The organisations and individuals represented on the Partnership's JAC (local authorities, statutory bodies and Focus Group Chairmen) will be consulted individually and it is yet to be determined whether or not the Partnership itself will take a combined view on the proposal.

The long term possibility of pursuing primary legislation for wider management of the Estuary in the context of changes in central Government legislation for the coastal/marine environment (e.g. a Marine Bill) has also been of interest to some around the Estuary. In October 2004 the JAC recommended that the Partnership seek support to investigate the potential for an Exe Estuary Management Act. This would be carried out by an external organisation and is a separate issue to the proposals from Exeter City Council for a new harbour authority. The Partnership are hoping to identify an expert to look at the pros and cons of this for wider management of the Exe. In the long term it has been agreed by most of the partners that they would like to see a more integrated approach to the many facets of management of the Exe.

Meanwhile, the draft Harbour Revision Order will require the new harbour authority to consult a body over issues that will affect the Exe Estuary community and it is likely that the Partnership will be invited to be this body. This could happen for a trial period at first. For further information on progress with the new harbour authority proposals please contact Ian Cowe, Exeter City Council (Tel: 01392 265336).

Are you interested in representing the Partnership?

Elections for local community representatives - Focus Group Chairman – take place every 2 years and will be conducted in early 2005. A new position of Exe Estuary Forum Chairman is to be created. If you are interested please contact the Exe Estuary Officer (Tel: 01392 382236).



Your Exe Estuary Representatives

The Exe Estuary Partnership is led by a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). This 'JAC' is made up of the funding partners and local community representatives as detailed in our 'Who's Who' guide. For Exe-Press we'll be interviewing one or two JAC representatives each issue to give you a better idea of their interests and role.

Eileen Wragg, Chairman of the Water Quality & Pollution Focus Group

How long have you been involved with the Partnership?

I have been very involved in campaigning against South West Water, and now Chair their Customer Consultative Group for Devon and Cornwall. As a result I was asked to work on the Exmouth Town Council Water Quality and Pollution Group. Several years ago I started going to the Partnership's public Exe Estuary Forum meetings, and my interest grew. I was elected as Water Quality and Pollution Focus Group Chairman 18 months ago.

What is your favourite thing about the Exe Estuary?

I grew up with the Exe Estuary and it features in some of my earliest memories. I love its openness and the tranquillity, especially on a winter day when it is really bright. It is wonderful that when you stand at the top of Exmouth and look out over the estuary you will never see the same view twice. It is constantly changing. Walking down Carlton Hill, I still get the same feeling of awe as when I was a child. The Exe Estuary is part of my life.

How does the Partnership help the Exe Estuary?

It has been a long haul, but the Partnership has been instrumental in increasing local and national awareness and appreciation for the Exe. The community is now much more proud of this unique natural treasure on our doorstep and realises that the estuary needs looking after. The Partnership encourages everyone to 'do their bit' so that future generations will share the sense of pride we have for our estuary. It really is a priceless resource.

Exe Estuary Forum

Over 75 people joined the Partnership team for a full programme of walks and talks on the Exe Estuary on Saturday 16th October 2004.

The day started with a guided tour of the Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve and newly refurbished Visitor Centre. Two of the Dawlish Warren Wardens and the Head of Countryside Management for Teignbridge District Council each led a group and provided information about the ecology of the Warren, the Visitor Centre and current byelaws.

We reconvened at Dawlish Warren Train Station and boarded our private carriage on a Wessex Train for the trip along the banks of the estuary to Exmouth. Packed lunches were provided by Powderham Castle and Darts Farm.

On arrival at Exmouth the group was greeted by the Town Mayor before being led to different parts of the Estuary front at Exmouth where local residents and Focus Group Chairmen gave short presentations on planning issues and ideas for the future to improve facilities for estuary users and a new interpretation/education centre in Exmouth. At each stopping point there was an opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and voice opinions on the proposals.

To complete the round-estuary trip, we took the Starcross Ferry from Exmouth back to Starcross. Whilst on board Natasha Barker, Exe Estuary Officer, provided the group with a summary of the Partnership's work over the past year, and gave an idea of the work planned for 2005. Maya Plass, Exe Estuary Cycleau Project Coordinator, talked about the Cycleau Project's progress. The group was then treated to the sight of an osprey fishing on the estuary. It was a very interesting and informative day, and everyone was grateful that we did not get too wet by the unpredictable October weather. Many of the participants commented that actually standing on the site of potential future developments in Exmouth, gave them a new perspective on the proposals, and visiting the Warren highlighted the unique and vulnerable environment of the Exe Estuary.

If you would like to join us for future Forum events and meet other people who enjoy the Exe Estuary, please make sure we have your contact details on our database, and we will send you information about Partnership activities. The next Forum will be our annual formal meeting in the Spring. Contact Melanie Parker on 01392 382236 or at exeestua@devon.gov.uk for details.



Children ExeSailed in this year's River Exe Junior Series

The Exe Junior Series is open to all sailors under the age of 18 from the Exe River clubs of Topsham, Starcross, Exmouth and Lymptone. Its aim is to encourage juniors of varied sailing experience to race. There are two dinghy fleets; one for 4.7, radial and full rig Lasers, and one for all other dinghies, this year comprising of Topper, Cadet and Laser Pico. The series consists of 9 races held in legs of 3 races, hosted by Topsham, Exmouth and Starcross clubs.

Topsham Sailing Club's leg was held on 6th June off Lymptone Barracks with tough force 4/5 winds and large waves; it really tested our juniors' stamina and courage. Harrison Ashton of Topsham dominated the Laser fleet with three 1st places. James Penn of Topsham came 2nd and Mike Matson of Exe came 3rd. In the other fleet Ben Cornish and Sam Matson of Exe took three 1st places in their Cadet, Jessica Blick and James Turl of Exe came 2nd in their Cadet and Mike Hill of Exe came 3rd in his Topper. This was the first racing that many of the younger sailors had ever competed in and they all did their clubs proud.

Exe Sailing Club hosted their leg on 10th July offshore in force 3/4 winds and moderate seas, the children excelled in these optimum sea conditions. Harrison Ashton continued his domination with two 1st places having to settle for 2nd place to his younger brother Miles in the

last race. Sarah Hickman of Starcross came 2nd. Miles Ashton came 3rd. In the other fleet Sam Jacklin and Rosie Williams of Exe came 1st with two 1st places and a 2nd in their Cadet. Archie Miller of Exe came 2nd in his Topper. Alex Horlock and Elliot Martineau of Exe came 3rd in their Cadet.

Starcross Yacht Club held the final leg on 28th August off Starcross Point in force 2/3 winds, flat water and sunshine. The children's confidence increased throughout the leg and they all performed superbly in ideal conditions. Harrison Ashton finished the series as he began with three 1st places. Charlie Game of Starcross came 2nd and Miles Ashton came 3rd. In the other fleet Jessica Blick and James Turl took three 1st places. Robert Flack of Topsham came 2nd in his Topper and Mike Hill came 3rd.

Overall, in the Laser fleet; Harrison Ashton of Topsham came 1st, Sarah Hickman of Starcross

came 2nd and Miles Ashton of Topsham came 3rd. In the other fleet; Sam Jacklin and a variety of crew from Exe came 1st, Archie Miller of Exe came 2nd and Jessica Blick and James Turl of Exe came 3rd.

42 children took part in this very successful series. Thanks goes out to the flotilla of safety boats, committee boats, mother ships, galley staff and crews. Also a special thanks to the generosity of all the local sponsors, who provided fantastic prizes including wetsuits, safety boat courses, buoyancy aids and loads more.

Andy Hohl, Starcross Yacht Club.

Sponsors

*Waterfront Sports – Exmouth
Sailsport Ltd – Exeter
Exe Power Boats – Exmouth
The Foc'sle – Topsham
Brigantine Chandlery – Shaldon
Retreat Boatyard – Topsham
Bridger Marine – Exeter
Ash Marine – Topsham
Underhills – Topsham
Bamboo Fryer – Topsham
AS Watersports – Exeter
Exe Leisure – Topsham*

Environment Agency Fisheries Patrol of the Estuary

Nigel Guy
Environment Officer for the Estuary

The Environment Agency has a new Exe Estuary boat. We can now make longer patrols from Countess Wear to Dawlish. This enables us to patrol the estuary safely. We check the commercial salmon fishermen drift netting in the estuary, assisting DEFRA and Devon Sea Fisheries in the enforcement of fishing regulations and byelaws.

Recently we have investigated reports of illegal netting off the Dawlish coast. The high profile patrol will make people think twice about setting illegal nets. Any illegal nets found will be removed and anyone caught setting illegal nets will be prosecuted.

If anyone suspects nets are being set illegally they can call our free phone hotline on 0800 807060.

Tackling Litter

Clean up operations on the Exe Estuary

Many interesting objects have washed up on the shores of the Exe Estuary over the years, including jellyfish, boat parts, and even old ammunition! But the more common presence of plastics and non-biodegradable materials on our beaches is an eyesore. If this debris is not physically removed, it may remain indefinitely posing a danger to people and wildlife.

In 2003 a Marine Conservation Society survey recorded an average of 2.3 items of litter per square metre of Dawlish Warren beach, and 1.6 for Exmouth. Some local people find these figures unacceptable and have been motivated to do something to make our shores safer and cleaner.

One of the groups of people taking responsibility for the state of their stretch of the Exe is the residents at Exton. The Exton Foreshore Clean is a regular event which was started by a local resident in 1965. Other residents joined in the early seventies and today there are usually 15 – 20 people at each clean. The foreshore clean is entirely a community initiative. Woodbury Parish Council assists by providing a skip to collect the full bags of debris. The Exton Foreshore Clean is usually an annual event held in the spring, but there was a heartening response from locals as they turned out to clear up after the recent storms.

In Exmouth, the Jurassic Coast Diving team has been instrumental in organising voluntary beach and underwater cleans since 2002. This year they collected 82.5kg of rubbish including cigarette ends, a large piece of sheet metal and a washing line, complete with pole from the beach. On the same occasion five divers cleared a car battery, computer parts, a wind-up radio and lots of fishing gear from the area just off the pier. The information collected by the Jurassic

Coast Diving team is sent to the Marine Conservation Society where it contributes to various national and international reports. The team are currently looking for support to 'Adopt-a-Beach' through the Marine Conservation Society.

With the recent storms beach cleans are even more necessary as additional amounts of litter are washed up. Whether a beach clean is organised by the local authority, Marine Conservation Society or local residents and organisations, it is always worth doing. If you know of other regular beach or foreshore clean ups in your area, or would like to join one, please let us know! We need to know the main sources of litter to know how to prevent it.



Item	% of total litter	Items/km
1 Plastic pieces > 1cm-50cm	10.7	221.9
2 Rope/cord/net < 50cm	10.2	212.1
3 Crisp/sweet/lolly wrappers	6.9	142.5
4 Cotton bud sticks	6.4	133.3
5 Plastic pieces < 1cm	6.0	124.9
6 Caps / lids	5.5	113.4
7 Cigarette stubs	5.2	108.7
8 Polystyrene pieces < 50cm	4.8	98.9
9 Plastic drinks bottles	3.5	72.2
10 Glass pieces	3.0	62.8
TOP 10 ITEMS	62.2	1,290.7

Adopt-a-Beach

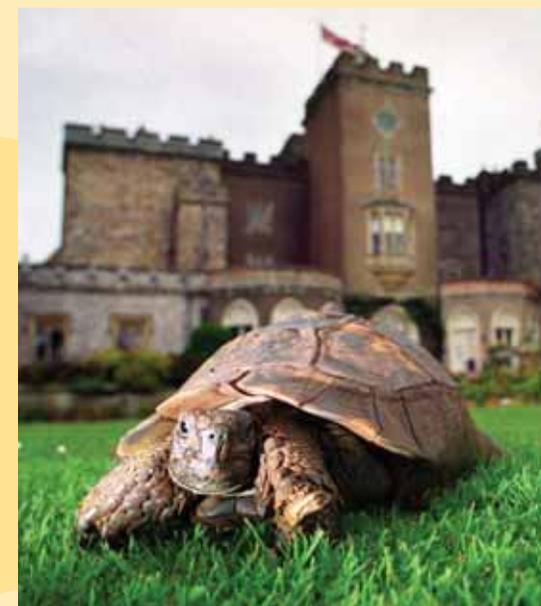
Adopt-a-Beach is a national initiative by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) involving local communities in caring for their local coastal environment. Groups and individuals all over the UK are given the opportunity to adopt their favorite stretch of coast. They take part in quarterly beach cleans and surveys to monitor beach litter. The Adopt-a-Beach campaign was launched in 1999 to raise awareness about the problem of marine and coastal litter and help MCS build a better understanding of how litter varies with

environmental factors and seasonal use.

Beachwatch is the UK's biggest beach clean and litter survey. Beachwatch takes place every September around the UK coastline. Volunteers visit their local beach and remove all the litter from it, recording every item that they find. They then send the data back to MCS. It is analysed and reported in the Beachwatch report, published every spring and available from the Marine Conservation Society. The results from the Beachwatch 2003 survey showed that beach visitors are responsible for 36.7% of litter

Timothy the Tortoise

Last year the Powderham Castle household lost one of its oldest members. He lived through two world wars, and the first record of his 40 year career with the Royal Navy was aboard a Portuguese vessel in 1854. He is known to have served on three ships including one commissioned to sail the precarious Black Sea during the Crimean War. This experienced veteran was Timothy the Tortoise, who was introduced to the Courtenay family in 1892 and has been rambling around the gardens of the Powderham estate since 1935. Over his 160 year life, Timothy collected a myriad of interesting stories which have been written up by Rory Knight Bruce in a book entitled 'Timothy the Tortoise – the Nation's Oldest Pet'. The non-fiction book documents experiences such as Timothy's days as a Royal Naval ship mascot, getting drunk on azaleas and finding out he was actually female. It is available from Powderham Castle shop and good book shops priced £9.99.



recorded; fishing debris represents 14.6%, sewage related debris represents 7.8% and shipping debris represents 2%. Beachwatch 2004 took place at hundreds of beaches around the UK on September 19th and 20th 2004. Full details of the results of Beachwatch 2003 are available on the website www.adoptabeach.org.uk Beachwatch 2004 results will be available in spring 2005.

Advertise Your Events – Free Web Space!

The Exe Estuary website www.exe-estuary.org is available for you to use, free! Share information about your clubs' activities with other people active on the Exe. All you need is a username and password (issued by the Exe Estuary Officer) to easily update this web-space with any event you are holding. By sharing awareness of each others activities we are less likely to overlap, so it's in all our interests! With over 1000 hits/month on the Exe Estuary website it's also a way of attracting locals and visitors to participate or just enjoy watching what is going on.

Teignbridge & Dawlish Warren

A new Dawlish Warren National Nature Reserve Wildlife Events and Activities leaflet will soon be available for 2005. This will list all of our guided walks and our wildlife events for children. The first walk in the new year is at 10am Sunday 16 January. The leaflet also has dates of our practical conservation volunteer days. If you are looking for something new to do in the new year join us and help us look after the reserve (No experience necessary just turn up on the day). If you would like a leaflet or further information please contact The Wardens on 01626215754/01626 863 980 or by e-mail abuckley@teignbridge.gov.uk

Storm Damage

A combination of low atmospheric pressure, high spring tides and strong South-easterly winds lead to storms which battered the South coast of Devon on two consecutive nights in October. The violent seas caused significant damage to the mouth of the Exe. Dawlish Warren lost so much sand that the gentle sand dunes were turned into dramatic cliffs, and Exmouth's sea wall suffered large cracks. Local authorities are now dealing with the aftermath of these storms and are considering further studies to help understand sediment movement at the mouth of the estuary.

Photo: Torquay Herald Express



Diary Dates

Exe Estuary Forum Saturday 23rd April 2005

Winter is a great time to explore the wildlife on and around the Exe.

8th January 2005 9.30am (Half day)
Bowling Green Marsh Guided Walk
Contact: John Allan, RSPB Exeter Local Group
Tel: 01626 821344

11th January 2005 10am – 3pm
Bystock Nature Reserve, Exmouth – Working Party.
Contact: David Brock, Devon Wildlife Trust
Tel: 01395 279144

13th January 2005 1.30pm
Starcross Walk with Exe Nature Walks
Contact number for booking 01392 211247
Cost £3.50

16th January 2005 10am (Family event)
Bowling Green Marsh – Winter Birding Stroll
Contact: RSPB SW Regional Office
Tel: 01392 432691

19th January 2005 10am
Powderham Walk with Exe Nature Walks
Contact number for booking 01392 211247.
Cost £3.50

26th January 2005 10am
Lypstone to Mudbank Lane Walk with Exe Nature Walks
Contact number for booking 01392 211247.
Cost £3.50

6th February 2005 10a, (Family event)
Exminster Marshes – Wintering Bird Stroll
Contact: RSPB SW Regional Office
Tel: 01392 432691

14th February 2005 7.30pm – 10pm
Talk on the Undercliff Landslip on the Heritage Coast. Held in Exmouth.
Contact: David Brock, Devon Wildlife Trust
Tel: 01395 279144

19th February 2005 9am (3/4 day)
Langstone Rock and Dawlish Warren Guided Walk
Contact: John Allan, RSPB Exeter Local Group
Tel: 01626 821344

10th March 2005 2pm
Topsham Walk with Exe Nature Walks
Contact number for booking 01392 211247.
Cost £3.50

14th March 2005 7.30pm – 10pm
Bystock and Other Local Nature Reserves - Illustrated talk by Donald Campbell of the Axevale Society
Contact: David Brock, Devon Wildlife Trust
Tel: 01395 279144

20th March 2005 9am (Half day)
Exminster Marshes Guided Walk
Contact: John Allan, RSPB Exeter Local Group
Tel: 01626 821344

23rd March 2005 10am
Countess Wear Walk on the Exe and old Sludge Beds nature reserve with Exe Nature Walks
Contact number for booking 01392 211247
Cost £3.50



If you are interested in contributing to the EXE-Press newsletter or would like information about any aspect of the Partnership's work, please contact the Exe Estuary Officer, Natasha Barker

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