



ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH

FEEDBACK MARCH 2019

ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH welcomes the new National Lottery Heritage Fund and what it might mean for local projects....plus an introduction to the city's Heritage Network and the Leat Project and an update on all sorts of things !

“ Plastic is poisoning the planet. We created it. Now we must get rid of it. I wish you every success in doing that and in showing everyone else how it is done” ‘ Sir David Attenborough to the School's Plymouth, Plastic and the Planet conference, 28th March 2019

IN THIS EDITIONTesco's Bags of Help fund. We still need your votes ! Details of how and where inside.

The Marine Park, plastics, tackling climate change, sustainable cities, forthcoming events and more....

More meetings, a new email address and a twitter handle (thanks Stuart !)

Please note that Environment Plymouth does not produced formal minutes. The proceedings of meetings are reported in the Feedback Newsletter which is ratified at the following meeting. Environment Plymouth is the city's independent, strategic network for those interested in all things environmental and sustainable.

Membership details available from Co-ordinator, Jackie, at info@environmentplymouth.org or by calling 01752 672537

Keeping in touch

- Our new email address
- Our new Twitter handle
- A website !
- Forthcoming meetings

As part of the development of a dedicated website, we have now adopted a new email address for Environment Plymouth. So you now contact the Network on :

info@environmentplymouth.org

Thanks to Stuart Spicer (as Jackie is rubbish with Twitter !) we now have a Twitter account and I believe many of you have already been invited to join the chat. This can be found at :

@EnvironmentPlym

We have commissioned a website (thanks Mike) and will soon have a resource that will keep tabs on all our activities, events and background information as well as providing pages for the Plastics Campaign and our working groups. Watch this space !

Meetings for 2019

Environment Plymouth's regular meetings take place on the second Monday of every month with an evening meeting on a quarterly basis. The dates and times for 2019 are set out below but we have yet to secure venues and, in some cases, topics for discussion.

Monday 8th April, 10am : A Citizen's Approach to Tackling Climate Change – following the recent Council commitment to action on a climate emergency. What should a local action plan include ?

Monday 13th May, 10am : Fashion Faux Pas.....the impact of the industry on the environment and sustainability. Can anyone recommend a speaker on this unusual topic?

Monday 10th June, 5.30pm: Our 2nd Birthday! Rather than a meeting we will be celebrating our official second birthday so keep an eye out for further details. What would you like to do?

Monday 8th July, 10am : Our Vulnerability to Climate Change...What do the national footprint figs say about progress in reducing Plymouth's carbon footprint? Have recent reductions been continued?

Monday 12th August, 10am : Summer field trip tbc – what would you like to do?

Monday 9th Sept, 5.30pm : Water Resilience and the big city – Rob Scarrott from South West Water will take us through the implications, what can be done to conserve supplies and change behaviour.

Monday 14th October, 10am : Topic tbc

Monday 11th November, 10am : Topic tbc

Monday 9th December, 10am : Another Year of Action on Plastics and annual review.

EVENTS

June 27th : Unravelling the City – With Urban Dialogues and the Sustainable Earth Institute – 27 years after the Rio Summit, what would an up to date sustainable city look like ? This initial scoping workshop will pave the way for further development during the Autumn Term and a bigger event during the University's Research Week in January 2020. The topic has links with every issue Environment Plymouth follows as well as many, many others. How could a citywide 'charter for communities' be developed and what would it contain ? How far should it go? Details to follow but all welcome.

Also to be arranged : Visits to the Materials Recycling Facility at Chelson, the new Water Treatment works at Roborough, the AD Plant at Langage and further MVV Tours, Green Drinks and a fun approach to public speaking.

Save the Date & Join the UK's Biggest Ever Clean-Up

Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean

22 March - 23 April 2019 Keep Britain Tidy will be counting on us/you until the end of April to help make the Great British Spring Clean 2019 the country's biggest ever mass-action environmental campaign.

You can now find out more about this great event and the location of local events on <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>



Do You Shop at Tesco's ?

Could you if it would help us secure some funding ?

If you shop at any of the following Tesco's outlets in Plymouth between 1st March and 30th April 2019 you could help us to win between £1000 and £4000 from the Tesco's 'Bags of Help' fund that is being administered by Groundwork. The fund comes from all the 5ps charged for their carrier bags ! We applied in the Autumn and have been told we are one of three local finalists. So do you, or could you, shop at :

COMPTON PLYMOUTH EXPRESS PL3 5JU, MUTLEY PL PLYMOUTH EXPRESS PL4 6JJ, PLYMOUTH ALEXANDRA RD EXPRESS PL4 7EG, PLYMOUTH BEAUMONT RD EXPRESS, PL4 9AZ, PLYMOUTH DISCOVERY HEIGHTS EXPRESS PL1 1UH, PLYMOUTH METRO, CITY CENTRE PL1 1RA, PLYMOUTH NOTTE ST EXPRESS PL1 2AR, PLYMOUTH ROBOROUGH EXTRA PL6 7RF. Or PLYMOUTH TRANSIT WAY SUPERSTORE PL5 3TW

When you make your purchases you'll be given a voting token and we'll be one of the options for your vote.

PLEASE VOTE FOR US...YOU HAVE UNTIL 30TH APRIL

Feature Item



The New National Lottery Heritage Fund : *With thanks to Laurel Miller who provided us with a very helpful summary of the newly launched National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly the Heritage Lottery Fund).*

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is one of 12 National Lottery Good Causes and was set up in 1994 under the National Lottery Act. An arms-length body accountable to Parliament through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, you can find out more at the National Lottery Good Causes website at www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk where you can search for local Lottery funded projects in your area by postcode. If you'd like to see they type of projects they fund this is a great place to start.

As an organisation the National Lottery invites applicants to define their own heritage and demonstrate how it is meaningful to them and to others and this now includes a focus on natural heritage.

As you can imagine, this means that they see a wide and varied range of projects. For example, in the past, they have funded projects that have celebrated particular cultural traditions, the conservation of previously inaccessible archives, and projects that have carried out work to help protect natural habitats and at risk species. The scope is generally very broad as 'heritage' can mean different things to different people but, in general, it can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. Our green space is no different in this respect.

So who do they fund ? The scope here is broad too. Applicants can include Charities or Trusts, voluntary groups, community interest companies, youth organisations, faith organisations, local authorities and Parish Councils.



The fund has a new vision for the next five years, which builds on 25 years of our achievements as a funder. By inspiring, leading and resourcing the UK's heritage, they want to support heritage organisations to get the most out of their public offer and enable a much wider range of people to take part in heritage activities. They want to be a 'change-maker' for heritage across the UK, championing the benefits that heritage can have to society as well as attracting investment from other sectors. They also want heritage to be more widely recognized as a vital contributor to the UK economy, social cohesion and individual wellbeing...encouraging true sustainability within the communities that benefit.

Are there any priorities ? The new fund sets out a number of funding priorities that reflect those of National Lottery Players. These priorities will focus on people or groups who are under-represented or who face barriers to being involved in heritage. These will include the inclusion of under-represented groups such as disabled people, young people, people from minority ethnic communities, LGBT+ communities and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The fund will also focus on heritage at risk, community and local heritage and the landscapes and nature we all love and value.

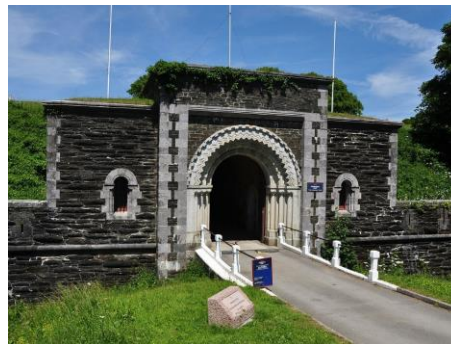
The fund will support these organisations to tell their stories and share their heritage and they want mainstream heritage organisations to create more opportunities for collaboration and deliver inclusive projects with these groups in mind. Their definition of 'heritage at risk' continues to be broad and includes formal designation, but

could also be heritage at risk due to financial difficulty as well as memories or cultural traditions that might be lost to future generations. They will continue their strong support for local and community heritage and hope that with the new, simplified processes, new Community Grants Scheme and local heritage campaigns they will be able to more effectively resource this type of heritage.

Whether their funding is conserving a nature reserve, a museum collection or listed building they want to see projects that take the opportunity to create positive benefits for nature, for example, creating roosts for bats, or locally sourcing products and materials.

Having established the context for the changes, Laurel then shared the key features of our new programme the National Lottery Grants for Heritage.

Essentially, they will be funding the same kinds of projects as before but they will be administered under one open programme. The banding applied will be determined by the amount you are asking from them and there will be proportionate requirements. However, one of the new features of this programme is the option to include a Community Grants. These are 'mini-grants' that will be administered by your organisation to third party recipients.



This option is available to applications of over £10,000, but may not be appropriate for all types of projects, so they strongly recommend that you the details on this feature within the new programme guidance are taken in to account and that ideas are discussed with the development team to confirm whether this would be appropriate for your project. In the previous strategic framework there were 14 outcomes. These have been reduced down to 9.

The outcome '**A wider range of people will be involved in heritage**' has been made a mandatory one and all projects of all sizes will need to meet this outcome in order to be competitive for funding. This will be proportionate to your project size and distance travelled by your organisation through delivery of the project will be a consideration

The outcome '**People will have greater wellbeing**' has been added and the outcome '**People will have volunteered time**' has been removed, however this does not mean that we no longer care about volunteers. In fact continuing to offer well- structured volunteering opportunities would be a way to address the mandatory outcome as well as developing skills and making organisations more resilient. Therefore volunteering should still be considered when planning an application.

Also note the outcome relating to **environmental sustainability** has been removed but it will be considered an integral feature in all projects. There will be specific questions in the application form relating to this and we will be offering a lot more support in this area. Finally, the former focus on learning is still an important outcome, but the fund feels that by prioritising the wider range of outcomes and introducing new audiences to heritage, the impact of the learning outcome being even greater.



Laurel provided a little more detail about two of the possible outcomes, namely 'that a wider range of people will be involved in heritage' and 'that people will have greater wellbeing'. For example, a project could ensure that a budget has provision for targeted outreach work. This might recognise that not all individuals are comfortable in a conventional heritage setting and that some flexibility should be written in to the proposals to include them.

So what are the characteristics of a project proposal that has embedded the wider range outcome? The fund will be looking for an understanding of the local area and the demographics of the audiences that you want to work with. You can do this by showing that you have gone out and talked to people in your local community and have their needs in mind when planning your project activities. You can also use sources such as The Office for National Statistics or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for research.

They are looking for a baseline of your organisation's work so far in terms of inclusion and access and would want to see how you seek to build on this through your project. Working in partnership with relevant organisations to reach particular groups and open up your networks as well as consulting with local access advisory groups, especially in capital projects can be a positive step

You can include costs to support people's participation in learning activity e.g. translation for English as a Second Language participants or any other reasonable adjustments needed. The fund wants as many people as possible to benefit from our funding, including National Lottery Players. Actions can include enabling people to tell their own stories, introducing new audiences to heritage or sharing experiences, increasing confidence and gaining new insights.

The other outcome Laurel touched on is that people will have greater wellbeing as a result of these projects. This is about helping people to feel more connected with others in their community or the place they live as well as offering opportunities for people to become more active. There is also some overlap with inclusion here as inequality often has a negative impact on wellbeing.

For projects that are considering this outcome it is important to know that we are looking for proposals that are specifically designed to impact wellbeing by working in partnership with health or voluntary sector organisations with expertise in this field and working with targeted participants such as referrals from mental health services. This is particularly appropriate in Plymouth where the city's Health and Wellbeing Board has acknowledged the value of trees and green, open spaces. There is even evidence that the social prescribing of time spent outdoors is having significant impacts across the UK.

This outcome is not obligatory and will not suit every project but, if it is something you were seriously interested in pursuing, then they will be expecting you to do it well by demonstrating that you are including experienced partners and safeguarding participants.

An updated website will soon be available with all the relevant details on how to apply. Please get in touch with Jackie (on info@environmentplymouth.org) if you'd like a copy of Laurel's presentation.

The Leat Project : Andi Higginson

Andi's interest in Drake's Leat began over 18 years ago and his current interest is boosted by the worldwide need to be careful with water. In many countries it is the availability of water, and not oil or other fuels, that creates conflict and mass migration. The Leat Project will provide a new approach to raising awareness; bringing scientists and artists together with environmentalists and the general public.



A Feasibility Study in 2015 proposed engaging people in the story of Plymouth's water – from its sources to its use via its heritage. It is a resource we take for granted and one that seldom prompts the installation of, for example, holding tanks.

Drake's Leat is 17 miles long. Its construction which, for its time (1580), was a feat of civil engineering, was overseen by Sir Francis Drake. Paid for by the then 'town councillors', it acknowledged the fact that Plymouth (as it then was) was

getting bigger and that clean water was an increasingly scarce resource. When Devonport and Stonehouse heard of its construction they asked to share it but were told 'no' so the Plymouth (Stonehouse) Leat, which shares lengths of moorland with Drake's Leat, was also constructed. Drake's Leat is still there and is still flowing in some areas but it has very little, if any, protection from damage or development. Access to the cellar of Barclay's Bank on Mutley Plain revealed flowing water during a development phase and the waters themselves supported tiny, freshwater shrimp-like animals. Some of the Leat has been restored and can be viewed along the A386 on Tavistock Road alongside the B&Q carpark, M&S Local and the car park of Windsor House. Up on the moors the remains often offer a route for walkers.

One aim is to seek some form of listing for the structure. The other is to raise awareness of the Leat, what it meant in the late 1590's and what it holds in store for today.



Keeping the waters flowing will involve local people in a celebration of resource heritage and civil engineering and will be based on workshops (on the implications of consumption, access and availability), performance workshops (entitled 'Water Never Sleeps') that will engage a completely different sector of Plymouth's community and 'The Leat of Colour' – a chance to create banners that will be linked from the Leat's source to the city centre and Drake's Reservoir on North Hill. The overall aim is to reveal the reality of the Leat, to bring it back to life and to highlight the issues of water resilience in the modern world. To do this it is hoped to organize a night time

'road race' that will follow the Leat's route and a promenade theatre piece entitled 'Drake and the Girl' focusing on a conversation between Sir Francis and a young refugee forced from her home due to a war caused by the lack of water.

There are other close links with heritage stories that could be explored. One could be the development of Peak Frea's biscuits; the result of a love story that began at the Mill that once stood in Sherwell Park or the story of the Devonport Dock Dung Diggers who chose to shift the town's waste from pits in Devonport rather than being hung or transported. This opens up the story of marketing gardening and mining in the Tamar valley and offers a whole new opportunity to celebrate the local heritage and sustainability of local people.

The Heritage Network :

Alan Butler

Contrary to belief, this network is actually the city's community heritage network rather than anything associated with Mayflower 400 or The Box. It owes its existence to the decision, 15 years ago, to condemn the storage facilities available to the city archives. At the time the Royal William Yard was considered too damp so what would happen to the Records Office and its precious contents ?

Hopefully these resources will now be brought together with the Museum and the SW Image Bank in the new History Centre. Nine years on and this proposal has turned in to 'The Box'.

The Heritage Network was preceded by the Heritage Consortium which lasted for about three years. Once the grant funds came through, the Consortium had no reason to meet.

The new Heritage Network is also a POP related network and it currently consists of about 50 heritage-related groups from across the city. It has more to do with community groups wanting to do something and has a focus on 'real' history such as the city's LGBT archives. It is currently developing further outreach and interest.

It is developing at a time when there is a push nationally for community history in both academic and local terms. There is an emphasis on bring the community forward so that evidence can be preserved for the future. Plymouth is doing this quite well and already has a number of recognized projects including Stonehouse's 100 Homes Project (an award winner). Like Environment Plymouth, the heritage Network provides a joint voice for its members and strengthens the knowledge exchange that can take place.

At the moment the focus is on the Plymouth History Festival from 4th to 28th May. Collaborations here will support the Local Studies Day which will probably be held at the University. There will be a lot of emphasis on cross-overs and connections so that dialogues can be opened and maintained.

In discussion it was noted that the heritage topic is not always 'plain sailing' and that not everyone sees the Mayflower 400 celebrations in the same way; with concerns about 'political correctness, colonialism and human rights still needing further discussion. The city is not without its links to slavery so there is a need to talk about it.

It was also noted that there isn't an overall strategy relating to heritage in the Plymouth Plan so the need to work together is even more important. There is the potential for it to be much more than a 'talking shop'. This was welcomed as there are also cross-overs between the built environment and natural heritage to be explored.

The discussion closed on the topic of community engagement – who 'owns' the story, what is important to the community and what is significant to them? Laurel explained that the new fund would consider support for the exploration of 'difficult' histories and the taking of risks to ensure that future generations can access the significance of Plymouth's links with Native Americans, African Americans, those who left for Australia and New Zealand and the role of notable city characters.

Laurel, Alan and Andi were thanked for their presentations – please get in touch if you'd like any contact details.

Training Opportunities

SSG Delighted to Add IEMA Foundation Certificate in Environmental Management To Course Portfolio

IEMA Health, Safety and Environmental company SSG Training and Consultancy have become one of only a small number of providers in the South West to offer the IEMA Foundation Certificate in Environmental Management writes EP member Kathy Byles. The Certificate helps businesses by providing attendees with a foundation of environmental and sustainability knowledge; covering a wide range of environment and sustainability principles, understanding of the breadth of the sustainability agenda and the management tools and skills needed to work within the area.

Kathy Byles, SSG environmental tutor, said "We aim to inspire people to work safely and sustainably and so we are delighted to be adding IEMA Foundation Certificate in Environmental Management to our training portfolio. Environmental issues including sustainability are of increasing concern to our clients. We wanted to provide them with a training course that is not only delivered to a globally recognised standard but provides delegates with practical guidance on how to implement environmental management measures when they return to the workplace. As one of the only providers of this course in the South West we are pleased to be leading the way in such an important business management area."

For more info go to www.ssg.co.uk or phone 01752 201616

The National Marine

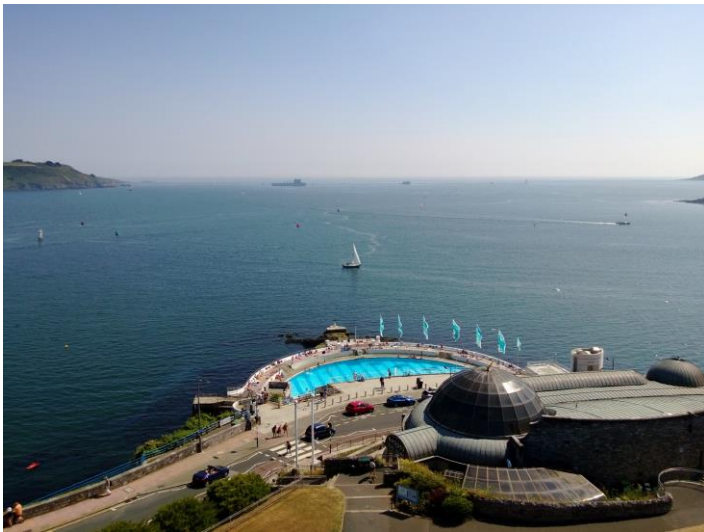
Park : Summary of our National Marine Park Workshop

on 6th March – what did you think ?

With grateful thanks to Josh McCarty for leading the discussion and to the NMA for hosting the workshop and to Richard, Penny, Doug, Terri, Jenny, Liz, Helen, Alun, Dave M, Graham, John, Nova, Jane, Dave C, Barry, Matthew, Mel, James, Marie and Chrissie.

Background

A number of Environment Plymouth members have been active in the discussions to date about the potential for a National Marine Park that would encompass the marine habitats of Plymouth Sound. Josh McCarty is now working with the City Council to develop the concept and, in his introduction, he noted that the process is very dynamic. The proposals need to address issues of prosperity, health and social well-being as well as the more obvious environmental conservation concerns and the interests of the many users and visitors of the area. The issue of boundaries is also under consideration as there are MOD and Queen's Harbour Master issues to include together with the possibilities of extending out as far as the Eddystone Reef and, possibly, an area from Looe to Salcombe. There is a lot to discuss but the outcomes will be built on achievements and existing pilot projects that enhance the evidence available and provide solutions to take the Park's status forward. A full scale Feasibility Study is now planned to add to the many existing reports.



One of the key aims for the near future is to engage the local community in deciding the future of the proposals. The Workshop posed four key questions :

1. **What are the key connections ?**
2. **What aspects of current day use should be taken in to account ?**
3. **What could be delivered through National Marine Park status ? – for the environment and for the community ?**
4. **What support can your organisation give to develop the proposal ?**

What are the key connections ?

- **Education** – the public engagement needs to be citywide and driven by an inclusive framework that includes businesses, community members and educators. Based on future sustainability, it could be a focus for 'town and gown' collaboration.
- **Access to the water** – this needs to address environmental, social and environmental impacts including litter and environmental quality, job creation (including waste management, tourism and leisure, rangers, educators and sports)
- **Diversity** – the area covers many disparate needs and benefits so co-operation and collaboration will be essential. The Sound is shared space with many uses and users. The

significance of young people's access to the water cannot be overlooked. The experience of previous projects (Blue Sound/Maritime Plymouth) should be taken in to account as learning opportunities.

- **Definition** – Just as the city's built environment inspires civic pride we should not take the built elements of the Waterfront for granted. They are an essential element of both awareness and heritage. We must ask what attracts visitors as Plymouth is not exactly the traditional seaside town. Which bits are used most and why? New development should also be included (Oceans Gate) together with communication opportunities. The NMP could provide unification, access and connections. The value of environmental quality should not be overlooked – especially the focus on diving and eco-tourism and, whilst the wildlife might be protected, there is also a need to recognise the land-based assets such as the caves.
- **Losses** – Drakes Island is unlikely to appeal to everyone.
- **Risks** – The weather, climate change, sea level rise and resilience to change.
- **Overall view** – The NMP is an asset for Plymouth and the nation.

2. What aspects of current day use should be taken in to account ?

All four groups listed uses separately (see main report) but the summarised responses were :

- **The Blue Economy** - has an effect on, by or under the waves of the Sound.
- **Fishing** – together with the Royal Navy and eco-tourism there is the opportunity to make much more of the natural environment.
- **Diversity** – One group listed at least 40 current uses so everything needs to be considered. This also needs to take in to account new ideas and novel uses.
- **End of life use and resilience** – waste management, decommissioning and sustainability. Can we build on existing innovation eco-moorings for example) or optimise the value of charging.
- **Beyond human** – The Sound is not just for humans but the bits that are need toilets, parking, tea rooms, event management (recent progress on the plastic waste identified from the championships is welcomed), disabled access and information.

3. What could be delivered through National Marine Park status ? – for the environment and for the community ?

- A key communications channel – for awareness and understanding.
- A focal point for information exchange and a 'go to' team of expertise.
- Protection and promotion.
- Themes – the chance to record recognised images and new options.
- Myths and legends – storytelling picking up on the Sound's past (tunnels, caves, Gog and Magog etc)
- Signage and applications – using social media properly.
- A new film set – attracting producers and directors.
- New budgets and access to varied funding.
- Access and safety – footpaths, car parks, water taxis, repairs to isolated sites currently needed.
- Eco friendly accountability and representation – true partnership working and a better dialogue.
- 'Conflict resolution'.
- Improved conditions – water quality, protection, waste management, biodiversity.
- Ocean education and awareness.
- Added value with simple roots.
- Sustainability – best practice in delivering all things to all people....a true community resource.

4. What support can your organisation give to develop the proposal ?

This final question revealed a wealth of available expertise and good will.

- **Environment Plymouth** – an independent voice with access to both expertise and community engagement. Allows a hearts and minds approach – technical –v- wish lists. Can also help with funding opportunities.
- **Collaboration** – Active support for co-operation and access to the green/blue environment (Wembury Marine Centre or the RYA education and awareness work).
- **Better facilities across the board.**
- **Involvement** – Devon Birds – guided walks, telescoped hides for bird watching. Mammal watching (seals etc)
- **Blue Marine** – apart from expertise and support, have sponsored beacons for fishing gear to prevent it becoming plastic waste. Support for young people's involvement.
- **Social awareness** – enabling access to the beach and affordable costumes etc etc. Simple solutions to addressing costs and low incomes.
- **Innovation** - Plymouth companies making swim wear from recycled plastic – leading from the front in fashion and the option of involving the College of Art. Using art to tell the story.
- **Land based studies** – using the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum as a statutory consultee and the Waterfront Partnership for common info for businesses. The Civic Society for constructive technical advice. The Brest Twinning Association for heritage links. The opportunity for joint funding bids (the new National Lottery Heritage Fund). The War Graves Commission and others.
- **The NMA** – a pivotal gateway for research, education and respect for the oceans.
- **Media links** – promotion and branding. Visitor centre outreach, using volunteers and valuing their contribution, cutting the red tape and any other 'barriers' (reducing the snobbery around research).

Community Litter Picks

Want to know more about local litter picks ad how you can help ?

Check out the Clean Our Patch Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CleanOurPatch/>

This amazing band of local volunteers, led by El and Ash, have 28 planned litter picks durit eh Great British Spring Clean !



Catch up on Beach Cleans

Surfers Against Sewage's Big Beach Clean is taking place at Bovisands Beach on Saturday 13th April between 2pm and 4pm. For more information search

<https://www.sas.org.uk/region/south-west/>

Or check out their Facebook link at

https://www.facebook.com/sasplymouth/?epa=SEARCH_BOX



Global Book Club April 2019

Building the Commune: Radical Democracy in Venezuela by George Ciccariello-Maher

Join us to discuss the successes and failures of direct democracy in Venezuela.
Free Event Open to All, Wednesday 10 April 2019, 7:00-8:30 pm
Rolle Building room 117, University of Plymouth
This room has disabled access. If the ground floor door is locked ring 01752 588400.

Sustainability Blogging

Environment Plymouth member Dr John Maskell is now writing a blog for the SEI at the university to draw attention to videos of high profile speakers on environmental issues. His first looks at the work of Polly Higgins and 'Ecocide – The Earth needs a Lawyer. Polly Higgins is a British Barrister who calls for ecocide to be established as the fifth UN international crime against peace. This would allow a state to take legal action against a corporation proved to have severely damaged or destroyed ecosystems. [Read the blog and watch a video of her public talk on the website.](#) Remember you can join the discussion by adding a comment or reply.

Talks and events at the Plymouth Electron Microscopy Centre

Here is a link to the PEMC series of Industrial Solutions events – intended to show electron microscopy in the context of different industrial sectors : <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/whats-on/pemc-industrial-solutions-event-series>

Each event is designed be informative, relevant and useful in terms of practical use of the instruments we have, but also future funding opportunities – they are brief, but packed with useful information to inspire! Click [here](#) to see what happened at our last event on 7 February 2019. Our next one is only a couple of weeks away (Weds 10th April) and we still have places – click [here](#) to book:

Using Electron Microscopy in the Microelectronics and Photonics Sector : Wednesday 10 April 2019, 09.30 – 12.30, University of Plymouth

Join us for the third in our series of free industry-focussed Industrial Solutions events that are running throughout 2019 and early 2020, funded by ERDF. Featuring presentations from our customers **Plessey Semiconductors Ltd** and **EFFECT Photonics Ltd**, discover how these two companies have used Electron Microscopy in the development of new products and processes, keeping them at the cutting edge of their sectors. Also speaking will be Ellen Pope from **Innovate UK**, who is the Global Innovation Lead for Advanced Materials; sharing the latest funding and support opportunities for businesses to innovate and progress R&D activities. Click [here](#) for the full programme.

[Bookings are now being taken](#); join us for a late breakfast and early lunch, followed by an optional demonstration of our latest instrument's capability, the [FIB-SEM](#) (focussed ion beam, scanning electron microscope) which is currently available for Devon SMEs to use for [free](#).

For more information, please contact Claire Pearce (01752 588908, 07713 082079 or Claire.pearce@plymouth.ac.uk) or visit our website: www.plymouth.ac.uk/emc

Tackling the local Climate Emergency

The focus of April's Environment Plymouth meeting, the significance of the threats we face from climate change was taken up by the Council who recently passed a motion on Plymouth's climate emergency. The motion on the 18th March, and the actions proposed are set out below but is this enough.....what more do we need to do locally and, possibly, nationally ?

DECLARATION ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Full Council notes that: 'Climate Emergency' is an internationally recognised declaration being used by Councils and other Local Authorities, predominantly in the UK, Canada, Australia and the USA, to publicly declare concern over the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings which recognise the adverse global impact of the changing climate. The declaration also serves as a commitment to take urgent action and aspire towards carbon neutrality. It is a powerful call to action that engages the entire community; it's not just about the practical actions that a Council might take. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm. Plymouth City Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, it has already committed to making the city carbon neutral by 2050 with an interim target of reducing emissions by 50% by 2034, has an acclaimed programme of energy efficiency, renewable energy, low carbon transport and climate change mitigation projects. Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities. City Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

Full Council believes that:

- All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Plymouth and the UK that cities commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.
- Cities and city regions have a vital role to play in leading the low carbon transition. They consume over two-thirds of the world's energy and are responsible for as much as 70% of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

- The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority
- Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

The City Council resolves to:

- (1) Declare a 'Climate Emergency'
- (2) Pledge to make Plymouth carbon neutral by 2030, and commit to working with other councils with similar ambitions
- (3) Request the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible; and commit to working with other councils with similar ambitions
- (4) Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C
- (5) Continue to work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans
- (6) Report to Full Council within six months with a climate emergency action plan and new corporate carbon reduction plan
- (7) Request the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer stating the concern of the Council with respect to the above, the likely national impact on the economy and on the wellbeing of citizens, and requesting Government funding be made available to implement swift appropriate actions in response.

If you'd like access to any of the city's previous strategies for climate change please contact Jackie on info@environmentplymouth.org Details are available from 2004 onwards.

How does Climate Change affect community and voluntary sector involvement ?

Jane Action of Nature Workshops is investigating voluntary and community sector involvement and engagement with the climate change agenda. She is particularly keen to hear from social or community enterprises so could you offer brief replies to the following questions?

1. Which agencies are taking this on (name of company and individual contact details) and where? Any data shared with me will not be shared in any way. If we need to use the data in future we will come back to you to ask for GDPR compliance.
2. What actions are being undertaken?
3. How are our staff affected and what support do you need to support your staff practically and if necessary emotionally?
4. If any agencies have found private sector or commercial income generating ways to address issues arising from preparations for climate change?
5. Are there any networks of mutual support?
6. Do you have any further comments?

If you can help, please respond to jane at jane@natureworkshops.co.uk or on 07939975362

Got a entrepreneurial 'good idea' ?

The 'Techstars Startup Weekend' has come to Plymouth, with a theme of 'Health & Wellbeing' – an issue which affects us all! The first ever Plymouth Techstars Startup Weekend is taking place at the end of April. A Startup Weekend is a 54-hour weekend event, during which like-minded developers, business professionals, entrepreneurs, marketing enthusiasts and more pitch ideas for new startups, form teams and work together to develop a prototype/presentation by Sunday evening. What happens at a Startup Weekend ? It's a bit like 'the dragon's den' on TV.

Day 1: Meet, pitch & team up

Day 2: Learn from mentors & get to work

Day 3: Present to the Judges

So, do you have an entrepreneurial idea you would like to pursue or a problem you would like to solve? This event will give you the chance to team up, create a prototype, validate a business idea and receive feedback from experience entrepreneurs and other professionals, all in one weekend! The University of Plymouth are collaborating with organisations and business professionals, to create an event full of smart, passionate people with the best tools and methods available to immerse participants in the ideal environment for startups to be born. We want to develop new ideas and ways of addressing the 'Health and Wellbeing' challenges of the 21st Century! The idea you pitch might have a Health and Wellbeing focus such as:

- Can technology help local people as they age?
- How can we tackle the risk to health posed by air pollution?
- What can help tackle loneliness?
- How do we manage data from the wearable digital tools increasingly used to manage health?

Event Details: Friday 26th April-Sunday 28th April 2019, Ocean Studios, Royal William Yard, Plymouth
For more details visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/techstars-startup-weekend-plymouth-health-and-wellbeing-042019-tickets-57803196918?aff=BusinessSchool>



Out-Sight-In
Sarah Newton

Photographic exhibition of debris washed up by the sea and places to dispose of what we no longer have a use for

27th March-3rd April 2019

Exhibition open: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-3pm, closed Sunday
Free tickets through [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
See Out-Sight-In The Clay Factory Ivybridge for:
Opening event Thurs 28th March 6pm
Artist talk Sat 30th March 12noon

The Clay Factory Redlake Trading Estate Ivybridge PL21 0EZ
01752 656470 info@theclayfactory.co.uk
www.theclayfactory.co.uk
RedPod Food Pop up lunches available Mon, Weds & Fridays
redpodfood@theclayfactory.co.uk

Plastics !



180 pupils aged between 7 and 16 and from 28 Plymouth schools packed the Council Chamber and joined speakers and exhibitors from across the city on the 28th March to celebrate what they can do to rid their schools of single use plastic. 19 schools in the city have already signed up to the simplest local pledge and 27 have signed up to work towards the SAS Plastic Free Schools status. Between us Clare Bradford (SAS Plymouth) and I will be double checking who's on the list and whether or not those signing up to the SAS campaign qualify us for the 33 schools we need to secure Plastic Free Plymouth status later in the year ! We hope so ! Our

thanks to Jono Madeley and his PCC team, John Bull and Joe Farrow from the NMA, all the marshalls and exhibitors, Cater Ed for the amazing lunch and, of course, all the pupils and staff who attended.

We're still recruiting !

If anyone wants to become a Community Ambassador or Business Pioneer then please get in touch (on info@environmentplymouth.org) as we still need to spread our coverage of plastic action across the city ! So far we have over 80 Pioneers and 65 Community Ambassadors and we hope to secure Plastic Free Plymouth status by June 6th 2019....a year on from the original Waterfront status.

Action from the BOC Task Group

At the recent meeting Cllr Darren Winter became the Task Group Chair and Jackie Young became its Vice Chair. Collectively the Task Group and the Council are working towards a 'Code of Conduct' that can be used to explain Plymouth's desire to eliminate all single use plastics and as many other types as well. Ideas for this are welcomed ! We have also been working with the Council on a multi-partner and very complicated Interreg funding bid which, if successful, could provide funding to run the Plastic Free Campaign for the next three years from September 2019. As soon as we hear any more on this we'll let you know.

Other Funding

We have an ongoing bid to a funding body for £10K and hope to hear back soon. We are also hoping to pull together a bid to the new NLHF fund – possibly for a fund to share between local projects – and we still have a minimum of £1000 from the Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme to enjoy. If you vote for us that sum could go up to £2000 or even £4000 ! We are also waiting to hear more about Round 2 of the POP Esme Fairbairn Fund and will be looking at approaching LUSH Cosmetics for some support.

With thanks to : Laurel Miller, Alan Butler, Andi Higginson, Penny Tarrant, Jane Sanderson, Frazer Howes, Sara Palmer, Sheila Evans, Doug Herdson, Tim Purches, Richard Sroka, Paul and Nicky Hatherell, Stuart Spicer, Jason Lowther, Ed Donoghue, Liz Coles, Andrew Young, George Maunder, Emily Cannon and Mark Parry.
With apologies from John Bull, Felicity Sylvester, Paul Warwick, Kirsty Wavish, Caroline Blackler and Paul Lunt.