



TAY VIEWS

A PUBLICATION BY THE TAY ESTUARY FORUM: PROMOTING THE WISE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE TAY ESTUARY AND ITS ADJACENT COASTLINE

ISSUE 40 Spring/Summer 2015

Hi all,

The TEF annual conference this year took place on Friday, 24th April 2015, under the theme, *Sustainable Coasts* (conference report, item 2). Favourable feedback reflected an informative day, with over 60 delegates turning up to West Park for some thought provoking presentations by this year's speakers. (Speaker summaries are on the TEF website). Thanks to all involved and we hope to see you again next year. There's lots of opportunities to interact with the coast locally, coming up this Summer, some covered in this issue. Please let us know if you are organising any coastal/ marine events or guided walks that we can help promote via the website. If you would like more info on our projects or features, please don't hesitate to get in touch, or visit our website at: www.tayestuary.org.uk

Best wishes, Laura (Project Officer)

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1: TEF UPDATE

- Next TEF Steering Group meeting: May 2015
- Scotland's first National Marine Plan was launched at the end of March 2015. TEF has copies available.
- See TEF website for TEF 2015 presentations



St Andrews, April 2015. L. Booth



2. Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference Report 2015

Sustainable Coasts

24/4/15 West Park Conference Centre, Dundee



60 delegates, representing a range of environmental, coastal & marine stakeholders, attended this year's Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference in Dundee, *Sustainable Coasts*. The event unites researchers, artists, environmentalists and engineers, sharing a common vision of communicating sustainable practice at various scales within regional coastal and marine sectors. Three sessions explored current topics for the Tay Estuary & adjacent coastline of east-central Scotland.

Session 1: Strategic planning for the terrestrial and marine environments (Chaired by Rob Duck, TEF)

Anna Donald, Marine Scotland's Head of Marine Planning and Strategy, introduced Scotland's newly-launched National Marine Plan. Her presentation looked at the various stages of its evolution and illustrated how the Plan will inform regional marine planning over coming years. From marine to terrestrial, Pamela Ewen, TAYplan's Strategic Development Planning Authority Manager, shifted the focus to explore changing land use in Tayside, current trends, priorities and future forecasts. Finally, Rosie Scurr, Mainstream Renewable Power, presented east coast offshore renewables latest developments, highlighting challenges faced during the process of wind farm installation, before summarising progress of the various development projects.

Session 2: Multi-scale working towards a sustainable future (Chaired by Dan Gilmour, University of Abertay)

Session 2 spanned multi-scale initiatives which promote sustainability at our coastline and in our coastal communities. Wendy Murray gave an excellent talk on the work carried out by East Haven Residents' Association & its aspirations for the future; the resourcefulness of which was an example to all. Allan Watt, Dundee's Waterfront Project Director at Dundee City Council, then discussed changes to Dundee's waterfront, including the demolitions, new-construction, investment opportunities, the V&A, and plans for a marina at City Quay. A fly-through video of the completed waterfront reflected the exciting potential for the City. Martin Price, University of the Highlands & Islands, placed the session into context by looking at the lower Tay region as a whole, raising the possibility for nominating the area as a UNESCO Biosphere Region, demonstrating approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. A Biosphere Region, by definition, "has a clear identity, is globally recognised for its species, its environment and the commitment of a wide range of stakeholders to work together towards a sustainable future".



Photo courtesy of Wendy Murray: East Haven Residents' Association. Beechgrove Community Garden.

The proposals gave delegates food for thought during the lunch break, after which, a poster/exhibit session allowed delegates time to interact with student research projects and other exhibitors, including: RNLI, Dundee Coastal Study, James Hutton Institute, Tay Landscape Partnership and Fife Biodiversity.

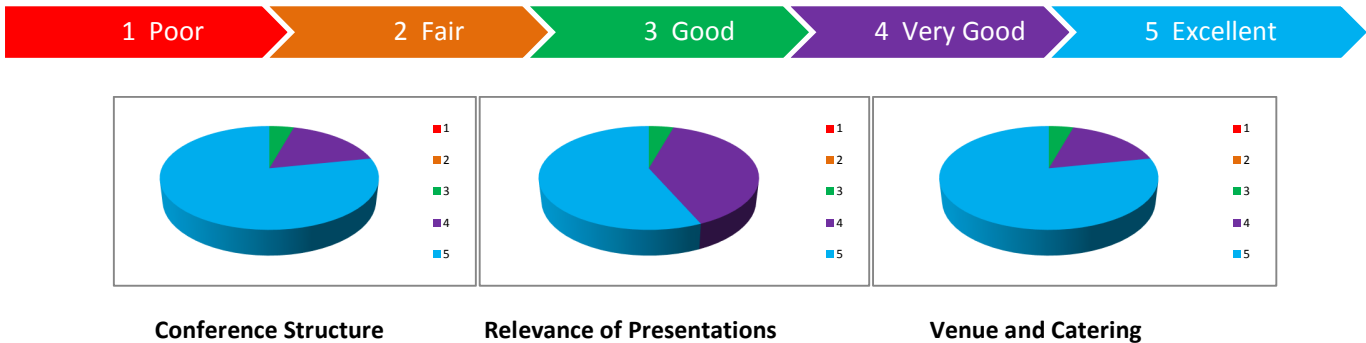
Session 3: Safeguarding humans, habitats and species

Michael Avril, the RNNL’s Community Incident Reduction Manager for Scotland & Northern England, began by illustrating plans for reducing community incidents at sea, with a focus on Broughty Ferry. This was followed by a report from PC Wilkie (Police Scotland) clarifying the legal ways countryside managers can control pests without breaking the law, focusing on bird crime in particular. Finally, Susan Mains explored creative community approaches to identifying with Tayside Spaces, through a series of writings and short films.

Closing comments by Anton Edwards (University of the Highlands & Islands) concluded the day, offering insights from a TEF perspective. Anton emphasised the importance of reducing complexities within the planning & regulatory system, relying on good science, whilst maintaining a critical objectivity of scientific findings. The cyclical nature of sustainability threaded the day’s talks together: identifying a resource, planning for its protection & use, investing effort & capital, monitoring progress, understanding results, then repeating the process, to become ever-more efficient. Practising Sustainability was defined as “writing the future.” The creative theme also continued with a Tay poem!

The event received publicity from local papers, and STV news coverage with Allan Watt (Dundee Waterfront Project Director, Dundee City Council) and Rob Duck (TEF Chair) giving interviews. Feedback from the event has been positive. Of the 60 delegates in attendance, 23 feedback forms were returned, the results of which are seen below (1-Poor, 5-Excellent):

*“The Carse
is noted for its rasps,
but Climate Change is on the way,
and may affect the silvery Tay.
So every raspberry cane you now can see
may soon be swallowed by the sea.
Below the waves, you’ll find Dundee.
Or, on Newburgh’s gentle slopes,
-and this is what your writer hopes-
if the weather gets much hotter,
you may see a stunning lot a,
Vines,
that give us loads of gallus wines.”
(A. Edwards, 2015)*



Suggestions for future topics:

- Finance, Engineering
- Skills development, leadership within research
- Integrated approaches to estuary/ coastal management
- Tidal potential in the Tay: ideas, research and opportunities
- Wader populations on the Tay
- Marine biodiversity of estuary- an underwater focus
- River basin planning
- Sea level rise and its effects on coastal sediments
- Interactive sessions/ discussion workshops- more interaction between the speakers themselves



© Tracey Dixon

Delegate comments: “Great experience: Informative, enlightening & thought-provoking at several different levels”... “A good variety of subjects and networking opportunities”.... “Excellent conference. Incredible value for money”... “Really enjoyed the day, made new connections with people, gave us a new perspective on the Tay and more insight into how we fit into the bigger plan!”“Excellent presentations individually & especially as a stimulating and interesting collective”.... “The conference works because it is interdisciplinary & diverse!”

A Walk in the Woods with TWIG!

Join us this May on a guided walk around 3 of Dundee's best woodlands! Learn about the history, the wildlife and the management of these wonderful sites.

Celebrate Dundee's wonderful woodlands with the **Dundee Trees and Woodlands In Greenspaces** project and **Dundee Ranger Service** as part of the Tree Council's 'A Walk in the Woods' month.

Monday 18th May – Dundee Law, 1 -3 pm. Meet in Law Road car park.

Tuesday 19th May – Balgay Hill, 1- 3pm. Meet at Scott street entrance.

Thursday 21st May – Templeton Woods, 1 -3 pm. Meet at visitor centre.



4. Perth and Kinross Archaeology Month June 2015

While archaeology and music might not appear to be the most closely related activities, Perthshire's own Dougie MacLean is pleased to be supporting Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and announcing the arrival of the programme for Archaeology Month 2015.

This year sees a national celebration of Scottish archaeology through Dig It! 2015 (www.digit2015.com) and the Perth and Kinross Archaeology Month programme will contribute significantly with highlights including a talk on WWI archaeology by TV's Tony Pollard, new free heritage explorer leaflets, archaeological digs at Dunning and in Glenshee, and a celebration of the clay buildings on the Carse of Gowrie, along with guided walks and public talks by experts, both in the field and in the lecture hall...

The areas heritage also increasingly figures in Dougie's annual autumnal Perthshire Amber Festival, and the Heritage Trust have been helping out with expert guidance to the best sites. Dougie said:

"I've had a personal interest in archaeology for as long as I can remember...a real fascination with the 'layers of time'. I love the mystery of the story of this wonderful landscape with its stone circles, Pictish carvings, remains of Roman forts and medieval towns and cathedrals. As years go by, in part due to the work of great organisations like the Heritage Trust, the story becomes clearer and we are beginning to realise just how archaeologically important this region of Scotland really is!"

The majority of the events are free and there are events suitable for all. The brochure is currently being distributed throughout Perth and Kinross, and will be available from libraries, museums and Visitor Information Centres, and by visiting the Trust website www.pkht.org.uk



5. Ties to the Tay project premieres films at StAnza International Poetry Festival

The Ties to the Tay project coordinated by Dr Susan Mains (Geography, School of Environment), premiered three short films at the StAnza Poetry Festival held recently in St Andrews. The project is a collaboration between an interdisciplinary group of academics at the University of Dundee, the Nethergate writers, artists, and community organisations. The three films shown--'Chase the Evening', 'Wade's Bridge' and 'My Song'--were produced as part of the ongoing project and based on the original poetry of group members, Roderick Manson, Gladys Taylor and Megan Heather, respectively.

The project aims to explore the changing relationships with, and representations of, the River Tay and its surrounding environs. Drawing on the work of creative writers, artists, film makers and many others the group engages, documents, creates and celebrates diverse Ties to the Tay.

The project is funded through CECHR (University of Dundee) and the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, and further information can be found at:

<https://tiestohtetay.wordpress.com/>



Participants in the recent Ties to the Tay workshop held at the RSGS Headquarters in Perth on 28 April. Photo taken by Alexa Martin, RSGS.