

## Chairs and Speakers Biographies

### Severn Estuary Forum 2015

*Celebrating 10 Years: A Retrospective View & Future Challenges*

**Tuesday 29th September 2015**

**Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol Harbourside**



**#SEForum2015**

**@SevernEstuary**



## **Chairs and Speakers Biographies** **Severn Estuary Forum 2015**

### **Welcome Address**

#### **Sarah Toy – 100 Resilient Cities, Bristol City Council**

Sarah is a chartered civil engineer with 25 years' experience working in the public, private, not-for-profit and academic sectors. She is Bristol's Chief Resilience Officer as part of the global Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities initiative. In this role she is responsible for bringing together stakeholders across the city region to develop a 50 year Resilient Trajectory for Bristol.

Through her career Sarah has worked on a wide range of infrastructure projects from motorways to cycle lanes and major flood defences to low cost water and sanitation systems in Africa, Asia and South America. Many of her roles have involved leading multi-disciplinary teams bringing together engineers, public health experts, community development specialists and economists to work across traditional boundaries and achieve common goals such as improved population health. She is very interested in how people's daily lifestyle choices can be positively influenced through a combination of hard (physical) and soft (social marketing) measures.

Sarah has lived in the city of Bristol for 12 years. Before her appointment as Strategic Resilience Officer for Bristol City Council in February 2015 she was the Head of Smarter Choices for the UK sustainable transport charity Sustrans and prior to that she worked for four years as a Sustainable Development Advisor in the consultancy Arup. In this role she was responsible for leading a team to update the in-house sustainability appraisal tool SPEAR to include climate change and poverty reduction indicators.

## **A European Perspective of the Challenges, Opportunities & Future of Coastal and Estuary Management**

### **Rhona Fairgrieve - Manager, Scottish Coastal Forum**

Rhona thought about putting her degrees in Politics & Modern History (Edinburgh) and Marine Resource Management (Cardiff) at the service of the Senior Service but decided against it when the Royal Navy started sending women to sea. As the daughter and granddaughter of Master Mariners, she has inherited an interest in all things maritime but, unfortunately, not the ability to sail without being monumentally ill. A land-based career ensued, encompassing implementing aquatic zoning in Poole Harbour, environmental management for Associated British Ports and running a national stakeholder engagement forum on coastal and marine matters for the Scottish Government. In May 2013 she was seconded to the European Commission in Brussels to join the team negotiating the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU). She returned to the Scottish Coastal Forum in May and is working with the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate to successfully implement the Scottish National Marine Plan, published in March 2015.

## **River Basin Management Planning and the Catchment Based Approach in Estuarine and Coastal Waters**

### **Paul Parker - Senior Marine Advisor, Environment Agency**

Paul Parker works with the Environment Agency's Estuaries and Coasts planning team to strive towards the sustainable management of our estuarine and coastal resource. Paul has eight years' experience of working in partnership developing effective communications with coastal and estuarine users to design and implement solutions to identified problems. Paul has a degree in Marine Geography.

Estuarine and Coastal waters constitute a significant part of England's water environment. They support numerous activities and present a range of environmental challenges and economic interests that straddle the land-sea interface. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and associated River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) provide a mechanism for

managing the water environment throughout Europe, including estuarine and coastal waters. Paul will offer an overview of the RBMP process illustrating the current state, the challenges and the choices within estuarine and coastal waters highlighting the Catchment Based Approach and interactions with other plans and legislation.

### **Severn Estuary Partnership: Celebrating 10 Years & Looking to the Future**

#### **Lucy Taylor – Severn Estuary Partnership and European Marine Site Officer**

Lucy Taylor joined the Severn Estuary Partnership team in March 2015 as the Partnership Officer. The Partnership works with all those involved in the management of the estuary, from planners to port authorities, and many more with an interest in the future of the estuary. Having lived alongside the Severn Estuary for over 20 years, Lucy has a keen interest in progressing integrated management across the border between England and Wales. Lucy has a degree in Marine Geography from Cardiff University.

Lucy is responsible for developing the work of the Partnership, providing support to the various pan-estuary groups, as well as being involved in projects such as the Wales Coastal Directory. At such an exciting and challenging time in coastal and marine management, the Partnership team is continuing to work hard to keep all Severn Estuary stakeholders informed of the latest estuary projects and developments, policy updates and proposals as they emerge. Lucy is also actively involved in the 2015/16 Severn Estuary Strategy review and development process.

### **Our Estuary Resources: Session Chair**

#### **Natasha Barker – Celtic Seas Partnership**

Natasha led the Severn Estuary Partnership from 2005-2008 including the 1<sup>st</sup> Severn Estuary Forum on board the Balmoral ten years ago! During that time she helped form the national Coastal Partnerships Network in the UK. She has worked on many projects advocating

Integrated Coastal Zone Management throughout Europe and is a board member for The European Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC).

In 2008 Natasha was awarded a Churchill Fellowship for her research on estuaries in Russia, Canada and the UK with the highest tidal ranges in the world. She continues to take an active interest in the Severn Estuary, being on the Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority committee and now living in Somerset.

She currently works as an adviser to the European & WWF-funded Celtic Seas Partnership project and is about to embark on a PhD in coastal governance at the University of the West of England.

### **Tidal Lagoon Proposals in the Severn Estuary**

#### **Graham Hillier – Managing Director, Development Services, Tidal Lagoon Power Ltd.**

Graham is Managing Director of Development Services for Tidal Lagoon Power Limited with responsibility for environmental, planning and property services.

Previously an Executive Director at Natural Resources Wales, Graham's career includes a decade at the Environment Agency in Wales. His twenty years in the private sector included roles with Wimpey Environmental and Fugro GEOS, where he served as a Director of its Ocean Numerics joint venture and provided marine environmental science services to industry and governments worldwide.

Graham was Chair of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) in Wales from 2013 to 2015 and is a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology. His qualifications include a BSc in Geography & Oceanography, an MSc in Marine Geotechnics and an MBA.

## **Coastal Change and Coastal Processes**

### **Bill Cooper- ABPmer**

Bill has over 29 years of practical experience in delivering coastal projects worldwide since he graduated from Swansea University in 1986 with a degree in Oceanography. Bill previously lived and worked in South Wales before joining ABPmer in 1995 where he is now Managing Director. Amongst other projects, Bill is presently advising Tidal Lagoon Power on their planned developments in the Severn Estuary.

## **Mud – Fish, Fisheries and Fisheries Management**

### **Libby Ross – Senior Environment Officer, Devon & Severn IFCA**

Inspired by the coastline of her native Northumberland, Libby Ross undertook an undergraduate degree in Ecology at UEA in Norwich. Dual interests in biogeography and marine ecology led her to completing a year abroad at the University of Auckland, New Zealand where she studied fisheries and aquaculture and spent time working at the Leigh Marine Lab – the world's oldest Marine Protected Area. A PhD in the links between Upper Ocean and deep ocean biogeography at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton followed. During this time Libby became an MMO appointee on the newly formed Devon and Severn IFCA committee. On completion of her PhD Libby joined Devon and Severn IFCA as Senior Environment Officer and has been happily knee deep in estuary mud ever since. Libby is also the chair of the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities and sits on the Institute of Fisheries Management Estuarine and Marine Committee.

## **Closing the Leadership Gap for a Sustainable Severn – Challenge & a New Vision**

### **Debbie Pain – Director of Conservation, WWT**

Dr Debbie Pain has been Director of Conservation at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust for 8 years. Debbie started her studies as an environmental chemist before moving on to combine this with her passion for birds and conservation by doing a DPhil on lead poisoning

in birds at Oxford University. She then worked for four years in the Camargue, France, on a range of ecological projects before moving to the RSPB where she developed and headed their international research programme until 2007. Debbie has published many scientific papers on a diverse range of topics and has co-authored/co-edited three books on conservation. At WWT, the conservation team's work includes research, policy and action to help save some of the world's most threatened wetland birds (e.g. spoon-billed sandpiper and Madagascar pochard) and the conservation of key wetland sites. This includes the 'Severn Vision' project in partnership with a range of organizations.

### **Closing the Leadership Gap for a Sustainable Severn – Challenge & a New Vision**

#### **Mark Robins – Senior Policy Officer, RSPB**

Mark has spent his entire working life on environmental issues, principally nature conservation, and mostly in the South West.

He spent 10 years as an environmental scientist, 10 years as a conservation advocate and is now a senior policy officer for the RSPB, working in both the South West and nationally.

Mark has worked for the RSPB for 20+ years. The RSPB is Europe's largest wildlife charity with a million plus members and is the UK partner of a global alliance called Birdlife International.

Mark has extensive experience of leading, steering and engaging with environmental, rural, farming and sub-national projects of many kinds. For instance he led a Task Group creating the South West's first regional Climate Change Action Plan.

He is a visiting Fellow at the Centre for Rural Policy Research at Exeter University.

#### **Local Hot Topics: Session Chair**

##### **John Chaplin - Director of External Affairs and Special Projects, The Bristol Port Company**

John is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers. After working in consultancy and contracting John joined The Bristol Port Company in 2000. He was

promoted to the position of Director of Engineering in 2003 and subsequently to the Director with responsibility for External Affairs and the delivery of major schemes.

John has addressed an extensive range of projects from remediation of contaminated sites to delivering storage solutions for power companies importing biomass, and from lock gate replacement to securing UKG approval of the Port's Harbour Revision Order to construct the Bristol Deep Sea Container Terminal.

### **Bristol – European Green Capital**

#### **Alex Minshull- Sustainable City and Climate Change Service Manager, Bristol City Council**

Alex leads Bristol City Council's Sustainable Development Programme across the Council, and with partners, to ensure a wider understanding of, and commitment to sustainable development. He led the City's 5 year programme to become European Green Capital 2015 and is playing a key role in helping to maximise the long term impact of that year.

Alex also leads the City Council's Civil Protection Team, ensuring that Bristol is prepared for a wide range of emergencies – including those related to the Estuary, such as flooding, industrial accidents and the port's activities.

He is an environmental scientist by training with over 20 years working in land use planning, environmental management and policy roles in the public, private and voluntary sectors. When at the Environment Agency Alex was the editor of the first Severn Estuary Strategy.

### **The Challenges of Working Alongside the River Avon**

#### **Tom Parker - MetroBus**

Tom is a project manager with experience gained from a range of innovative transport studies and schemes. Specialisms include public transport, transport emissions, environment impacts and demand management as well as evaluation techniques and stakeholder engagement. The focus of his work is the development of policies and projects



aimed at promoting more sustainable modes, including encouraging the take-up of low carbon technologies.

### **Restoring the Heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels**

#### **Rebecca Bennett – A Forgotten Landscape**

Rebecca Bennett is an archaeologist masquerading as co-project manager for A Forgotten Landscape - a HLF funded landscape partnership scheme based in South Gloucestershire and Bristol. Together the project team will be facilitating a diverse range of projects with local communities over the next three years. The projects cover everything from art and education, to wildlife and walking, birds and bugs and of course heritage, with the aim of exploring the levels landscape with local communities.

### **Fish and Crustacean Dynamics in the Severn Estuary & Bristol Channel**

#### **Peter Henderson – Director, Pisces Conservation Ltd.**

I am a director of Pisces Conservation Ltd. and a Senior Research Associate at the University of Oxford where I teach multivariate statistical methods and marine ecology. I have particular interests in the population dynamics and community ecology of aquatic systems. My field work focuses on long-term time series of fish and crustaceans. I have studied aquatic communities in Amazonia, North America, The Waddensea and numerous estuaries in Britain. A focal study area has been the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary where I have monthly sampled the fish and crustaceans at Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station for more than 35 years. The ecological effects of electric power generation is a specialist area of expertise. I am the author of a range of ecological text books including Ecological Methods, Practical Methods in Ecology, British Ostracods and Marine Ecology: Concepts and Applications. I recently published the Identification Guide to the Inshore Fish of the British Isles. The 4th edition of Ecological Methods has just been completed and will be published by Christmas.

## **Identification of Wintering Waterbird High Tide Roosts on the Severn Estuary (Brean Down to Clevedon)**

**Katie Clark – Marine Adviser, Natural England**

Katie is a marine adviser for Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, in the Somerset, Avon and Wiltshire area team. Katie has a BSc from the University of Southampton in Marine Biology with Oceanography, and went on to do a PhD at the University of St Andrews studying the gene expression and lipid dynamics of *Calanus finmarchicus*, a marine copepod. After writing up her PhD while living in Nepal, Katie moved back to the South West, working at Bristol Zoo on environmental sustainability projects, before moving to Natural England.

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