

# TORRIDGE GREEN PARTY

## GREEN INFO

### MARCH 2024

**PETER CHRISTIE** As you will know, Peter sadly died on 20<sup>th</sup> February after a short illness and his funeral was last Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March. St. Mary's Church, Bideford was packed for the service. Peter wrote his own biography which is on the Green Party Facebook page and you can also find it at The Guardian online in their "other lives" section. He will be greatly missed as a mainstay of our Green Party and after over forty years as a Bideford Town Councillor and Mayor four times plus 33 years as a District Councillor.

**BI-ELECTIONS IN BIDEFORD NORTH** We are expecting to have bi-elections for Peter's seats on the District and Town Councils on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and would welcome help with leafleting and canvassing. We will send round details of times, dates and meeting points very soon so look out for the email and we hope to see you.

**WELCOME TO OUR PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE** Judy Maciejowska (Judy Mac) from Tavistock has been chosen to be our Parliamentary Candidate at the next General Election and we are delighted. Judy has worked for the national Party for a number of years and is, consequently, very well informed on policy and procedures and will make an excellent candidate. She attended the Torridge Green Party meeting last Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March and we look forward to campaigning for her.

**VOTER REGISTRATION** It is shocking to learn that there are over 11,000 voters missing from the Electoral roll in Torridge alone. This is partly to do with the change to individual registration which can mean that young people approaching their eighteenth birthday are not on the roll. Also people who have moved recently – a growing problem with the cost of rented accommodation – may not have registered at their new address. If you know anyone, neighbours, family etc. this may apply to, do encourage them to ensure they are eligible to vote when the General Election is called. They can do it easily on line. Also, if you have students in your family, ensure they have a postal vote.

**ELECTION AND CAMPAIGNING COSTS** If you want to help the local Green Party, think about setting up a standing order. £5 a month soon adds up and can help our funds. Contact Cathrine Simmons on [cathrinesimmons@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cathrinesimmons@hotmail.co.uk) for bank details.

**XR MEETING SATURDAY 16TH MARCH** There will be a regular XR meeting this **Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15 pm** (tea from 2.00 pm) in Barnstaple Library. All welcome.

**RIGHT TO TRAVEL CAMPAIGN** There will be a meeting on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.00 pm to gain support for a minibus service from Torrington, via Umberleigh and Chrittlehampton to South Molton. This is being organised by Gerry Sables from Barnstaple who is building support for this vital link to the Tarka Line for students and anyone else travelling to Exeter and to South Molton. Do come along if you can. Teenagers currently dependent on the student bus to Exeter College which is being withdrawn especially welcome.

**TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM** The Taw Torridge Estuary Forum is an a-political body of environmental groups, parish and town councils bordering the estuaries, along with sports clubs, the RNLI and others concerned with the well being and conservation of the estuaries. It was set up in 1980 and its role is to act as an independent voice for the whole of the Taw and Torridge Estuary. It is supported by both North Devon and Torridge District Councils but is independent of both.

The day to day work of the Forum is run by a sub-committee, meeting roughly every six weeks, dealing with such items as planning applications and consultations. If you want to know more, the rebuilt website should be up and running soon or contact Tony Pratt, Chair on [tonytopsail@outlook.com](mailto:tonytopsail@outlook.com).

Ruth Funnell  
Torridge GP Secretary

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