

TORRIDGE GREEN PARTY

GREEN INFO

OCTOBER 2024

Lots of news and information below. Marches in Bideford and London for clean water, information about standing for the County Council next year, an interesting film at the Plough in Torrington and more. Read on.

TorrIDGE Greens AGM: We held our AGM on 28th September. Our Green Councillors have been very busy promoting green policies during the last year. First the District Councillors are a major part of the Climate Group and also pressing, among other things, for TorrIDGE District Council to change to electric vehicles for waste collection. In Northam the town's vehicles are already electric and charged using the solar panels on the village hall. Jack Gordon has pushed Bideford Town Council to stop using neonicotinoids and his motion to wild seed in sites permitted by Highways was passed. Colin Jones is working to get an EV charger in the car park in Dolton and Peter Hames and Wendy Lo-Vel have seen bird boxes installed at Anchor Park and hedge laying at Burrough Farm by Northam Town Council.

At the Housing Strategy Workshops last month Green Councillors pushed the need to build energy efficient housing and promote renewables on domestic and industrial buildings as well as locating developments near public transport. Our councillors have also been at the forefront in promoting active travel including using grants to resurface footpaths and improving linkage on cycle paths.

All these things make a difference to our carbon footprint. The footprint for TorrIDGE did increase slightly last year but this was a consequence of taking the swimming pools back into Local Authority control. Our councillors will ensure that, as soon as funding is available, the pools will be upgraded to rectify this.

County Council Election May 25 the County Council Election come round again next May. Are you interested in standing? We are particularly looking for candidates in the Bideford and Northam seats. County Councillors receive expenses of around £12,000 a year which does help with travel cost to the Exeter meetings for example. The County Council website explains the responsibilities of Councillors and is well worth a look. [Go to this link](#) or check the post on our Facebook page.

Autumn Lectures in Barnstaple North Devon Greens are once again organising a series of lectures. The first takes place on Thursday, 17th October at 7 p.m. in Barnstaple Library. Fiona Matthew, founding Chair of Mammal Conservation and author of the Red List and Tim Kendall will talk about restoring lost mammal species to the Southwest. They are joint authors of "Black ops and

beaver bombing". Open to everyone. Tea and coffee provided and retiring collection.

"I Could Never Go Vegan" The Plough in Torrington is showing this film, directed by Dr. Thomas Pickering who looks at people's beliefs and dispels a few myths. It is on Wednesday 16th October at 2 pm and 7 pm and runs for 105 minutes.

Devon County Council Transport Plan DCC is inviting residents to contribute to a consultation on transport priorities across the county between 2025 and 2040. The deadline is Saturday 30th November so go to the County Council website and search for the "Have your say" webpage.

March for Torridge This will take place in Bideford on Saturday 26th October to draw attention for the state of our rivers and sea. It will start at 10 am at Freshspring on the Quay and march along the quay and over the long bridge.

National March for Clean Water organised by River Action will take place on Saturday 3rd November in central London assembling at 11 am at a riverside venue to be announced (check their website). Please wear blue.

Bideford Sustainability Group This very active groups meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. at the Joiners Arms. If you live in Bideford and want to get involved, do go along.

Bideford Repair Cafe This now meets in Bideford Library in the Juniper Room every second Saturday from 10 am to 1 p.m. They repair clothes and small household items.

Torridge Green Party next meeting will be on Saturday 16th November at 2.30 p.m. Save the date. Venue will be in Bideford. Meanwhile do check out the Torridge Green Party Facebook page. It has regular updates of events and information. Share posts with your friends or just click "like" if something interests you.

Ruth Funnell
Secretary