

Torbay Marine EcoFest: Our seas and rivers
18 July 2026 10.30am - 5pm
St Matthias, Babbacombe Rd, TQ1 1HW

Climate change and the threat to biodiversity are huge challenges facing us all, in Torbay, across our country and around the world. Everyone has a part to play, however influential or modest. It starts with appreciating the amazing environment we have here in South Devon, understanding what is happening and then knowing what practically and realistically can be done by each of us.

In particular we are privileged to live in a wonderful marine environment, a naturally inspiring Bay, looking out on the English Channel and with rivers and waterways. We enjoy being beside the sea; swimming, boating, fishing or just walking coastal paths. But our marine environment is of international significance and is at risk. What can we do better to protect our local seas and rivers, to understand what is the risk and what can and must be done?

Building on the very successful Torbay EcoFest of December 2023 run by Torbay Christian EcoAction, this free day event for the whole community will inform, act as a resource, be a family fun day with crafts and activities, have some leading speakers and allow us to hear from organisations and people working and enjoying our marine environment.

10.30 -12.15 All Age Activities and stands

Ocean Conservation Trust including nutrition balls
Craft Activities (including a coastal map)
Seashore identification
Water safety, NCI
Cove Discovery
ARC Marine
Torbay Harbour Authority
Friends of the Teign
Torbay Council
More to be confirmed

12.15 "Our Amazing Seas" Prize giving by the Mayor for the creative arts competition celebrating our wonderful marine environment by painting, poetry, art, textiles, photography etc. Adult, under 16, under 8

12.45-1.15pm "The Marine Life" - chance to hear about how speakers and others have got involved in marine biology and protecting the marine environment and to encourage more to join this important work

1.30 – 5 pm Talk Programme

1.30 – 3pm *Our Amazing Marine Environment:*

Professor John Spicer - Professor of Marine Biology University of Plymouth
Ocean Conservation Trust - Seagrass Meadows, Megan Ross
Cove Discovery Project, Chris Thomas

3.20-4.00pm *Improving biodiversity and water quality*

Friends of the Teign: The Lab on the Teign. Stuart Reynolds
Torbay Council on new blue flag and bathing water standards, Karen Hamlet

4 – 5pm *Enjoying our wonderful Bay*

Water safety, National Coastwatch, Derek Singleton
Health, joy and other benefits of wild swimming: Tina Lucas
Torbay Council on their own plans for the Bay, Dan Vickridge and Rose Bailey Clark

Further details from dh@davidhodson.com