



## NEWSLETTER

May 2011



# FULL SPEED AHEAD!

**Focus on  
sustainable  
transport as  
Exmouth  
celebrates 150  
years of the  
Avocet Line**

*Xcycle members welcome the Exmouth Flier. From left: Elinor Scott, Adrian Toole, Mary and David Chapman and Mathew Ford. Photo by Andy Lock*

**SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT** was the theme of the day on Sunday 1 May, as the Avocet Line, Exmouth's rail link to Exeter, marked its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And Xcycle were at the forefront of the celebrations as the TTE group cycled up the Estuary cycle path in period costume and on vintage bikes to greet the Exmouth Flier, a special train commemorating the grand occasion.

'It was a surprisingly easy ride on our vintage bikes,' Xcycle's Elinor Scott told the Exmouth People website. 'The bikes had no gears and were much lighter than we imagined. It was a very pleasant ride and everyone was extremely friendly to us.'

Aboard the Exmouth Flier were VIPs and passengers in Victorian costume. According to Roma Patten, an Avocet Line Rail Users' Group Steward, the atmosphere was 'fantastic'.

A huge crowd gathered to greet the train at Exmouth. VIPs included Hugo Swire, Conservative MP for East Devon. 'Today is fantastic,' he said. 'I think the Avocet Line is a great service for people both in Exeter, and, of course, in Exmouth and this part of the world. It's incredibly important to the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone. It's our arterial run to our county city and it's something we should all celebrate and be proud of.'

Following the train's arrival, a Sustainable Transport Fayre – including stalls from Xcycle, TTE and Exmouth LETS – took place in the Strand Gardens. 'A lot of people had a great day out,' said Tony Day, chairman of the Avocet Line Rail Users' Group. 'It lifted the profile of the railway, and it proved conclusively what a vital asset it is to our local transport infrastructure.'

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### CAMERON TO BACKTRACK ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

From **DELIA PEMBERTON**

**COULD THE Prime Minister be about to renege on his promise to make his administration ‘the greenest government ever’?**

A report in The Guardian (9 May) said that ‘an imminent decision by David Cameron on climate change will be “the key test” of the Government’s green credentials, according to the UK’s chief climate adviser, although squabbles among ministers mean it is a test that is in danger of being failed.’

The Prime Minister had promised to support fully the recommendations of the government-commissioned Committee on Climate Change, which include adopting a target date of 2030 by which to reduce carbon emissions by 60% relative to 1990 levels (46% relative to 2009 levels).

However, by 29 March The Guardian was warning that: ‘There are still deep divisions between the Department of Energy and Climate Change, which is calling for tough targets to stimulate green growth, and the Treasury and the Department of Business, which argue that the current economic situation calls for less stringent targets in 10 years’ time.’

In other words, Treasury hardliners are urging the Prime Minister to cut costs by reducing the targets for carbon emissions, cutting green jobs and subsidising the very industries responsible for the problem in the first place!

So the question is: will the Government ignore the recommendations proposed by its own climate change experts? Our own MP, Hugo Swire, claimed to support sustainable transport when he visited Exmouth earlier this month, so will he urge David Cameron to support the report?

Well, I’ve written to ask him, but as yet have had no reply beyond an acknowledgement. I suggest you drop him a line, too – and keep watching this space...

## EXMOUTH FESTIVAL

### FESTIVAL FEVER IS WITH US AGAIN!

**PAUL STRANGE writes**

**EXMOUTH FESTIVAL is back (26 May–3 June). This year TTE groups will be involved in four events during the nine-day celebration of music, arts and culture.**

On Thursday 26 May TTE is hosting a Local Food Potluck Supper at the Telfer Centre, Exmouth Community College, 7.00-9.30pm.

Similar in concept to last September’s very successful Potluck supper, the event is free and open to all – just come along and bring a dish made from predominantly locally sourced foods to share. By chance the TTE Potluck Supper coincides with National Vegetarian Week, so ideally the food you bring should be vegetarian. An opportunity to show off your culinary skills and a chance to meet up with TTE friends old and new, it should be a great event!

On Monday 30 May, from 12.00 noon-5.00pm, TTE is teaming up with Exmouth LETS to bring you the Reskilling Tent in the Manor Gardens. Free recycling craft workshops will include rag-rugging, knitting and crochet. It’s also hoped to have demonstrations of spinning, card-making, rug-making and planting.

Following the success of their last event, arts group Createx will be hosting another Arts Café at the Axis Centre on Monday 30 May, 10am-4pm. Expect some inspiring displays of artwork, plus music, performance and cake!

Exmouth Farmers’ Market also falls within the Festival this year, on Wednesday 1 June, from 9.00am-1.30pm in the Strand Gardens. Pop along for the finest local food and produce, plus information from TTE and Exmouth LETS.

For details of all these events, see the Diary or visit [www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk](http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk).

Other attractions during the festival include live music in the Manor Gardens and at venues around the town, art and craft exhibitions, performance, the sandcastle competition and the kite festival. And don’t forget there will be full festival coverage on Bay FM, Exmouth’s community radio station, on 107.9 FM between midnight on Friday 20 May and midnight on Friday 3 June. Don’t miss it!

## FARMERS' MARKET FOCUS

### This month, PAUL STRANGE meets fruit juice producer PETER WEBB

**Trader:** Peter Webb

**Stall:** Milltop Orchard

**Products:** Pure single variety apple juices and fruit blends

**Prices:** £1.50 (330ml bottle), £2.50 (750ml bottle), plus 10p back on returned bottles



**Nine months ago former vet Peter Webb purchased the seven-acre, 5,000-tree Milltop Orchard, which he, his wife Ann and family run together. He sells his pure fruit juice through Farmers' Markets and Festivals, such as Taste of the West. He has also had interest from the National Trust and may be at next year's Devon County Show**

#### **Why did you buy the orchard?**

It came up for sale and, having sold my previous business, we saw an opportunity. I'm a vet by qualification and I had a large laboratory in Newton Abbot, which I sold.

#### **That's a big move from veterinary work to arboriculture...**

Yes! It's completely different from what I had been doing. As opposed to looking down a microscope and employing 70-odd staff, it's just my wife, my family and myself now.

#### **Was it an ongoing business?**

Yes. It needed a kick up the backside, so we've taken the plunge and decided to have a challenge.

#### **What are your most popular products?**

The apple and pear juice, which we introduced this year. It's proved so popular we've had to put another 80 pear trees in. The apple mixtures – such as apple and ginger – have also proved popular. We're going to make more mixtures this year, and see what works.

#### **What do you think of Exmouth Farmers' Market?**

I think it is one of the better local Farmers' Markets because it's a nice site and a fairly good footfall from passers-by. And then, being a nice location, people will actually come along and start buying...

**Contact:** Milltop Orchard, Combeinteignhead, Newton Abbot TQ12 4QH; 01626 873030 (orchard); 01626 870881 (office); [www.milltoporchard.co.uk](http://www.milltoporchard.co.uk)

## TTE NEWS

### EMBERCOMBE MIDSUMMER FAIR

EMBERCOMBE (the green charity) and Re:Connect (the green living magazine for Exeter, Plymouth and South Devon) are holding a mid-summer fair on Saturday 18 June, at Embercombe (near Exeter Racecourse, Haldon Hill). Open from 10.00am-5.00pm, the fair will feature a 3-D, walk-through version of Re:Connect magazine, complete with a Well-being tipi village, a Green Marketplace, an Eco-home display, workshops and a Transition Town exhibition, including a stall from TTE. More details from: [www.embercombe.co.uk/](http://www.embercombe.co.uk/)

### UMBRELLA

DAVID BROCK recently stood down as the representative for the Farmers' Market group. TTE Umbrella members have expressed their thanks to him and Jean for their efforts in supporting the market. TTE is now looking for someone to represent us at the Farmers' Market on a regular basis. We are also urgently seeking an events officer. If you can help or would like to know more about either of these roles, please contact Jane Habermehl: [jane.habermehl@talktalk.net](mailto:jane.habermehl@talktalk.net)

### AGM

TTE IS THREE in July! As well as the AGM, there are plans for a social event afterwards. This will be a relaxed affair and a good chance to reflect on the great things that TTE has achieved since it was founded in 2008. The Umbrella is currently looking for a suitable venue and would welcome suggestions.

# DIARY **May 2011**



**Fridays 6, 13, 20 and 27, 3 June**

**EXMOUTH COUNTRY MARKET** 8.30-11.15am, Glenorchy Hall, Exeter Road. Local produce, plants and crafts. Details: [www.country-markets.co.uk](http://www.country-markets.co.uk)

**Mondays 9 May, 6 June**

**TTE UMBRELLA MEETING** 7.30pm, Town Hall. All welcome. For more information contact TTE Secretary Peter Dennes: [pdennes@hotmail.com](mailto:pdennes@hotmail.com), 01395 279965

**Wednesdays 4 and 18 May, 1 June**

**EXMOUTH FARMERS' MARKET** 9.00am-1.30pm, Strand Gardens. Local food and produce, plus information from TTE and Exmouth LETS at the first market in the month.

**Thursday 26-Friday 3 June**

**EXMOUTH FESTIVAL** Nine-day celebration of local music, arts and culture. Programmes available from the Town Hall, or visit the Exmouth Festival website: [www.exmouthfestival.org.uk/](http://www.exmouthfestival.org.uk/)

**Thursday 26**

**TTE LOCAL FOOD POTLUCK SUPPER** 7.30pm, Telfer Centre, Exmouth Community College (Gipsy Lane site). Social evening and celebration of local food. Admission free, bring your own drink and a dish of locally sourced vegetarian food to share. Details: Jane Habermehl: [jane.habermehl@talktalk.net](mailto:jane.habermehl@talktalk.net)

**Monday 30**

**ARTS CAFÉ** 10am-4pm, The Axis Centre, Market Street. Showcase for visual and performing arts, work for sale and refreshments. Admission free. More information: Roger Gibson: [createxe@gmx.com](mailto:createxe@gmx.com)

**Monday 30**

**TTE AND EXMOUTH LETS RESKILLING TENT** 12.00 noon-5.00pm, Manor Gardens. Free recycling craft workshops including knitting, crochet and rag-rugging. Details from Delia Pemberton: [delia@themyrtlehouse.plus.com](mailto:delia@themyrtlehouse.plus.com)

**TRANSITION TOWN EXMOUTH**  
[www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk](http://www.transitiontownexmouth.co.uk)

To build Exmouth's local resilience and independence from fossil fuels,  
and to reduce its carbon emissions by a process of energy descent



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF TRANSITION TOWN EXMOUTH

Name.....

Address.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....Email.....

I support the stated aims of Transition Town Exmouth and hereby apply for membership.

Signed.....Date.....

There is no fee, but donations are welcome. Please make cheques payable to Transition Town Exmouth.

Please return completed form to TTE, c/o Flat 2A, 51 St Andrew's Road, Exmouth EX8 1AS

*Entries for the June issue to: [delia@themyrtlehouse.plus.com](mailto:delia@themyrtlehouse.plus.com)  
by 20 May please!*