

Programme outline

18th February 2009



Subject: Magnificent Severn Festival

The Magnificent Severn Festival: celebrating the tide

A weekend festival to celebrate every aspect of the tidal Severn – involving schools, local communities, surfers, artists, fishermen and tourists. Giving everyone a chance to interact and understand the Severn tides and the spectacle of the Severn Bore.

Date: 22nd August 2009

A series of events triggered by the passing of the tide culminating in a 'festival' or 'fayre' at Over Farm.

Beat the Bore – A 6km cross country run from Hock Cliff to Arlingham – and a short 'fun run' relay race both triggered by the tide. *Martin Adamson, a seasoned local fell runner.*

Surfers' Art – Sponsorship would be sought for an exhibition of work by the regular bore surfing community which boasts many talented and productive artists. They all have a unique perspective and understanding of the landscape, the tide and the effect of the moon. *Work with Kell Portman, Walking the Land Project.*

Bore Photography – Exhibition of pictures taken of the tide and Severn landscape. *Mark Humpage.*

Satellite Events – Enable local businesses and institutions along the river to put on events as part of 'The Magnificent Severn'. For example outdoor breakfast at The Old Passage Inn, Arlingham. Ringing the bells of the Churches along the banks as the tide passes. Furnish all sites with literature about the festival and maps to enable people to chase the bore upstream to the main site.

Painting with Mud – Open sessions held by local artists 'create your own mud painting'. *Steve Hislop.*

Salmon – Patcher making and the ancient art of the 'lave net' demonstration and talk on the history and future of salmon fishing. BBQ a Severn Salmon. *John Powell and Simon Cooper, Severn Netsmen Assoc.*

Local Produce – Local, cheese, cider and perry makers to talk and demonstrate. *Severn & Wye Smokery, Severn-Sider Cider.*

Elvermen – Elver fishing, the historic and economic value and eel sustainability. *Peter Wood, Glass Eels Ltd*

Music – Local bands including the 'Bad Detectives' who have written a song about the bore. Compose and sing a spontaneous song inspired by watching the tide, lead by *The Mill's Cafe singers, Stroud.*

Ecology Walks – Ecologists to lead 'nature walks' along the bank. Walk up with the arriving tide, return as it drops out.

Schools – Visit schools along the route before the event. Talk about the tide and encourage interactive spontaneous learning, involving story telling and 'being the tide'. Create a 'bore dragon' – enable each school to create a section of a Chinese style dragon from brown material. Bring the pieces together for a bore dance at the river – the head of the dragon embodying the head of the tide.

Surfing – The official world record holder, Sergio Laus, from the Amazon is planning to be surfing the bore this weekend. Previous world record holders from the Severn will join him on the river in a 'parade of the greats'. Promote this in the surf press and get famous surfers to attend. *Steve King, former record holder.*

World Bores – Talk about the Pororoca in the Amazon, the Black Dragon in China and the Mascaret in France. Featuring Sergio Laus from Brazil, Antony Colas from France and Stuart Matthews from UK, the first man to surf the giant Chinese bore. *Tom Wright, Tidal Bore Research Society.*

Tidal Power – A demonstration of the latest 3rd Generation tidal stream turbine powering a cooker with Severn tidal energy. Seek a 'celebrity chef' to cook fish caught from the river - *Gordon Ramsay has previously been elevating and cooked them on his show. Alexie Jansenn, Aquascientific Exeter.*

Longwave Film – Screening of the film documenting the story of bore surfing. *Donny Wright.*

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