

A Celebration of the Natural History of the Thames
hosted by Sir David Attenborough
Friday, 9th October at Kingston University

Speakers' biographies

Professor Paul Leonard

**BSc (Hons), MSRP, CRadP., C. Biol., FI Biol., CSci., C MarSci., FI MarEST, FLS
Honorary Professor, Institute of the Environment, Brunel University
Visiting Professor, Marine Institute, Plymouth University**

'Water Quality in the Thames ~ Is the River Fit for Purpose?'

Passionate about all aspects of environmental protection since school days, Prof Leonard is especially interested in how human activities impact on the environment.

Until June 2007, Prof Leonard was the Head of the Science Unit, Marine Environment Division at the Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). He has continued his career as an Environmental Consultant, working nationally & internationally, contributing to wide ranging debates on renewable energy, climate change, the determination of environmental quality, and the valuation of ecosystem services.

Prof. Leonard is a registered Expert Witness and became a council member of the UK Environmental Law Association in July 2009. He is also the Parent Governor Representative for Special Educational Needs schools on the Education & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. He has served as a trustee & member of council of the UK Freshwater Biological Association as well as being a current member of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Peer Review College and the Marine Biological Education Committee. He is also Deputy Chair of their Agriculture, Environment and Land-use Committee Meeting at the Institute of Biology.

Other recent duties have included:

- Chairing a debate at The Royal Society on 24 November 2008 'Water: Science into Policy' on behalf of the Institute of Biology.
- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Surface Flooding Scrutiny Task Group, June 2008 www.richmond.gov.uk/pastscrutinytaskgroups.htm
- Environmental Consultant for the Natural Capital Initiative Symposium 29 April to 1 May 2009 www.naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk Leader of the Marine Workshop.

Mark Davison

Fisheries and Ecology officer, Environment Agency

'Invertebrates in the Upper Tidal Thames'

Mark's career in estuary biology developed from an essentially freshwater background with some marine biology experience. He has picked up "hands-on" marine biology experience within the Environment Agency, where he has been for ten years.

Mark spent several years as a volunteer and later research assistant in the Natural History

Museum's department of Entomology (working on aquatic invertebrates, especially chironomids) and subsequently worked as a private contractor identifying freshwater invertebrates on various Environment Agency contracts around the country.

In 1999 he became Tideway Ecologist for the South-East Area of the Environment Agency, and has been undertaking estuarine ecology ever since. Mostly his work involves collecting and identifying aquatic invertebrates, though he is involved in other fisheries work too, and spends varying amounts of time commenting on planning applications and supplying data to external consultants.

Joe Pecorelli **Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames**

'Eels and Other Fish of the Tidal Thames'

Joe Pecorelli is a marine biologist who has worked extensively in education and conservation. He founded the National Aquarium Workshop, in response to a need in the aquarium community to share experience, knowledge, improve standards of animal husbandry and encourage collaborative conservation work. This conference is now in its twelfth year.

Until 2003, Joe was the curator of the London Aquarium, responsible for the education and aquatic departments which involved the development and delivery of tailored education programmes at primary, secondary and tertiary level.

He worked as a project manager for the Zoological Society of London, where he helped set up the Tidal Thames Eel Monitoring Programme. Now freelance, he is developing and delivering education programmes, both curriculum-linked and informal, creating learning resources and activities and running environmental events. His clients include the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, Thames Landscape Strategy, The London Wildlife Trust, Thames Explorer Trust, Thames Estuary Partnership, the National Maritime Museum, the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames and the Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames.

He has lectured on aquarium science and spoken at many conferences including the First International Water Quality Symposium, the The Shark Trust annual Conference, The European Union of Aquarium Curators and The Marine Conservation Society.



Often teaching on the foreshore, Joe enjoys nothing better than getting wellies on and taking groups of people down to the river to discover for themselves the rich diversity of life to be found there. In 2008, he was awarded the River Thames Society's John Coleman Trophy to the individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the Thames.