

Society for Nautical Research Podcast



Summary

Bideford & River Torridge HH are working with the Society for Nautical Research to create a half hour podcast about Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour as part of a heritage harbour mini-series. The production cost is £750 + VAT and this is a request for a donation to support of this project which will promote Bideford & River Torridge on a UK and world-wide podcast stage upon its release in late summer 2026.

Background

The Society for Nautical Research is the world's oldest society dedicated to the study and preservation of maritime heritage. It publishes The Mariner's Mirror, the world's leading journal of naval and maritime history (<https://snr.org.uk>), and also a podcast dedicated to maritime and naval history presented by Dr Sam Willis and supported by the Lloyd's Register Foundation. The podcast has a worldwide reach of with a subscriber mailing list of c.7500 and an average of c.1000-1250 downloads in the first week of episode release. The audience is consistently growing and to date the podcasts have had over 600,000 all time listeners.

A Heritage Harbour mini-series

Heritage Harbours, working with The Maritime Heritage Trust, has agreed an SNR podcast mini-series. The proposed format is a brief picture with local voices of what's special about the featured Heritage Harbour:

- What is required to keep the HH preserving maritime character and history
- How to tackle current and future threats and opportunities
- How to move the HH concept into the future.

The Harbour will be represented by 3-4 key voices, who hold specific roles or personal reflections, share insights into projects and how the HH is working on sustainable future. 'Past, Present & Future'

The HH mini-series will have four episodes:

- Introduction to HHs and aims objectives
- Three Individual episodes on HHs
 - Exeter

Bideford and River Torridge Heritage Harbour www.barthh.org

Led by Bideford based Way of the Wharves CIO - advancing the education and information about the maritime and industrial heritage of Bideford, East the Water and the Torridge Estuary. **Registered charity:** 1188912.

- Bideford & River Torridge
- Ramsgate or Ipswich (to be determined)

Bideford & River Torridge Episode

BARTH H have developed and presented a series of themes and voices to Sam Willis at SNR. His conclusion is: "What a fabulous amount of stuff going on! Brilliant. The challenge will be to bring this all to life and get a general sense of the history all within 30 mins. I think a good way forward would be for me to outline a lot of the background in the introduction so we can spend time hearing from local voices rather than just learning facts.

Sam will be in Bideford 24 June to conduct interviews for the podcast content:

- Introduction and general background - Sam Willis
 1. Heritage Vessels - John Puddy
 2. Shipbuilding - Jack Partridge, apprentice at Navantia
 3. Biosphere – Hannah Nash
 4. Appledore Maritime Innovation Centre – Fiona Henderson

Release date after editing will be late summer 2026

The Cost of podcast production and launch is £750 + VAT and travel expenses (discounted thanks to SNR and Lloyd's Register - competitors charge +£2500). This includes any proprietary work, media engagement (e.g. press release, educational production support, social media content) and dedicated hosting server. The podcast is produced as an 'open access' resource that is free for all to listen to.

Next Steps

This is a great opportunity to put HH and Bideford & River Torridge on a wider stage using a very popular medium. It complements other activities we have planned for 2026 and our aim to use a range of communication methods to maximise audience and message distribution. In addition to our programme of talks and guided walks these include:

- One day symposium Saturday 21 March 'A new look at Elizabethan Maritime History'
- Estuary Commentary on paddle steamer Waverley visit Monday 15 June 1800
- Shipyard Trail partnering with MOLA Coasts in Mind, NDMM Appledore, Navantia
- Heritage Open Days events September including Bridgeland Street open day

We look forward to working with SNR and local partners to develop and publish this podcast and hope you will be able to support Heritage Harbour with a grant towards covering podcast production costs. A donation of £200 from each of the organisations below would be ideal, BARTH H will cover other costs from funds.

Mike Teare

Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour (BARTH H)

12/06/2026

Sent to: Torridge DC, Bideford TC, Northam TC, Bideford Bridge Trust

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