



autumn/winter 2009/10



Water Savvy



Positive Interaction Films

WATER SAFETY

Promoting the Water Safety Code
the Thanet way – see pages 12-13



working with people
for coastal wildlife

Coastal Project's Log

Welcome to the latest news and activities for the North East Kent European marine sites.

This year has been an important one for the marine environment as the Marine Bill progresses through Parliament towards eventual adoption.

It's our busiest ever summer with a wide range of youth and family activities (see pages 7-10) including free taster sessions for surfing/kayaking, sailing and scuba diving; story-telling walks; learning film techniques and the ever popular seashore safaris.

There is so much happening – the new 'After-School Clubs' in the community (page 3); volunteer training just gets better each year (page 4) and the autumn events continue with Beachwatch, where you can help contribute to the national survey of beach litter, and a huge selection new events as part of this year's Kent Coastal Week (24 Oct-1 Nov).

I'd like to welcome Nora Aldous, the new Thanet Coast Assistant who started work in April. Since then, her feet haven't touched the ground – she has done tremendously well putting together various community and educational activities! You may have seen Nora as she has been a volunteer warden for the last two years and helped run many of last year's Beach Play activities.

We also welcome two part-time Beach Play assistants for the summer, Suzie Hooper back onboard and new recruit Jasmin Rose, thanks to Big Lottery Funding. My thanks go to all our volunteers for contributing their valuable time, commitment and enthusiasm.

Tony Child, Project Manager

Coastal contents

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Smugglers and Serpents



27 & 28 Aug (page 9)

The Peckish Penguins



24 & 29 Oct (page 10)

Summer activities for everyone!

Beach Blasts



Nora



After-School Eco-Clubs!

It's a first! Young people are experiencing new 'out of school time' clubs with the Thanet Coast Project and its partners, thanks to the support from the Big Lottery Fund and help from Extended School Services. The first club involved an art session led by Art for All.

The 'Sand-hoppers' club of 25

children was held at St Saviour's, Westgate with older mentors (Year 5) helping the younger hoppers (from Year 2) coming in from St Crispin's Infants. The Sand-hoppers developed an array of art work including pottery, taking their inspiration from the poem 'The Sea', and produced their very own art-work portfolio to take home.



THE SEA

Behold the wonders of the mighty deep,
Where crabs and lobsters learn to creep,
And little fishes learn to swim,
And clumsy sailors tumble in.



Photos Debbie McLening

Thanet Coastal Wardens on Flickr

The volunteer wardens have been a busy bunch in 2009, learning about fossils from the Rock Doc, sprucing up the Sea Garden and helping to rid the Foreness chalk grassland of ragwort! If that weren't busy enough, many spared the time to give the Thanet Coast Project team some valuable feedback at our 'In Your Patch' informal chats all around the coast.

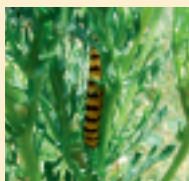
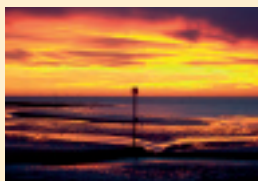
Recently, some of the wardens spent time on their bellies getting up close and personal with the wildlife of Sandwich at our first Wildlife Photography Workshop led by Brett Lewis and Tony Flashman. The pair dispensed helpful advice on how to

improve our photography skills (go ahead, get on down to eye level with those creatures!) and take more effective shots – the results of which are still coming in on our new Flickr.com group pool:

www.flickr.com/groups/thanetcoast

This website is a great way of sharing your images of the coast and its wildlife with us – and who knows, you may see one in this newsletter!

The year's only half through and we still have wildlife sailing, coastal erosion and a turnstone awareness evening to look forward to, not to mention our annual get-together in November!



Images: John Edwards and Nora Aldous



Thanet Coastal Warden Activities

Optional Activities 2009-10

- 'Wildlife Sailing' Trip (27 Aug)
- Coastal Erosion (Rock Doc, 26 Sept)
- Shoresearch, Whiteness (KWT, 17 Oct)
- Turnstone Awareness (TCP, 3 Oct)
- The End of the Line (TFS, 27 Oct)
- Coastal Bird Identification (SBBOT, 8 Nov)
- Annual Warden Forum, (26 Nov)
- Turnstone Count (SBBOT – Jan/Feb 2010)

Induction Training

- Introduction (Spring – TBC)
- Shorelife Identification (KWT, Spring - TBC)

Cummins volunteers, Ramsgate Sea Garden



This year has been one of the busiest for community groups, businesses and schools getting involved with environmental work on the coast.

The beaches will be sparkling after regular Duke of Edinburgh tasks from Dane Court School. Pegwell Bay gradually gets tidier as groups get to grips with tidal cleans – with help from Cummins volunteers, McDonald's and Tesco community action.

We would like to thank sponsors Cummins and Pfizer for their support for beach cleans and towards enabling volunteer action!

SeaART2009 – Call for work!

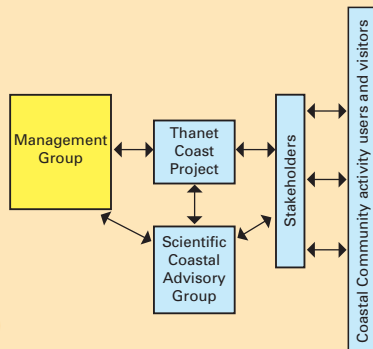


SeaART2009 is the sixth annual contemporary art exhibition for artists inspired by our coast and sea. This year's themes "Sea Fish" and "Healthy Seas" are inspired by the Kent Coastal Week theme 'Fishing and eating for a healthy sea'. People can register their interest to submit works by emailing thanet.coast@thanet.org.uk or by calling 01843 577672. The exhibition runs from 24 October to 12 November 2009 at the Belgian Café, and other Ramsgate venues.

Who manages our coast?

The North East Kent European Marine Site (NEKEMS) management scheme is ultimately the responsibility of the 'relevant authorities' which form the **NEKEMS Management Group**. These are the competent authorities, with some legal responsibility, that could have an effect on the wildlife or habitats of the designated site.

European legislation (Birds and Habitats Directive) requires appropriate steps are taken to avoid deterioration and significant disturbance of the natural habitats of the designated wildlife and features.



The **NEKEMS Management Group** was formed in the 1990s and has been working with representatives of many different coastal activity groups – 'stakeholders' – to arrive at decisions on the management of the NEKEMS. The Management Scheme uses the principles of encouraging:

- 'stakeholder dialogue' to discuss issues and identify actions or a way forward
- voluntary management approach first, where possible

The original scheme (2001) identified a number of actions and the need for a project to work with local people to raise awareness of the wildlife and issues – hence the Thanet Coast Project. The scheme was reviewed and new actions (2007-12) can be found online at www.thanetcoast.org.uk and a new summary leaflet is now available (see page 16).

Relevant Authority	Relevant responsibilities
Canterbury City Council	Local Planning Authority*
Dover District Council	Local Planning Authority*
Environment Agency	Regulatory body for environmental protection (to 3 miles out)
Kent County Council	County Planning Authority (to mean low water)
Kent & Essex Sea Fisheries Committee	Regulatory body for fisheries (out to 6 miles)
Natural England	Advises government and implements statutory nature conservation duties (to 12 miles out)
Sandwich Port and Haven Commission	Harbour Authority: Sandwich Port and approach channel
Southern Water Services	Water supply and wastewater service
Thanet District Council (TDC)	Local Planning Authority*
TDC, as Harbour Authority	Harbour Authority: Harbours, Port and approach channels

* (incl. recreation and coastal protection) to mean low tide.

COASTAL EVENTS

Always wear suitable clothing and shoes for outdoor events. Bring drinks, sun-block/hats in hot weather or wear windproof and warmer clothing on colder days. Most are not too physically demanding and would suit a variety of ages, but check details, as longer events may require more careful preparation.

KEYS TO THE COAST

- A** Art Event
 - F** Family Event
 - G** Guided Walk
 - M** Meeting/Workshop
 - O** 'Other' Events
 - V** Volunteer Task
 - W** Wildlife-related
 - Y** Youth Event
- V** For volunteer tasks: wear stout footwear and suitable clothing (waterproofs/wind proofs, depending on the weather). For beach cleans: gloves and bags will be provided.
- F** Suitable for children and families. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Y** Youth Beach Play is run with support from the Big Lottery Fund

Book: Booking Essential. For TCP events where places are limited, please reserve your place on-line under 'What's On' at **www.thanetcoast.org.uk**
If you do not have internet access, you can book through the Thanet Visitor Information Centres on **0870 2646111**

TCP – Thanet Coast Project
01843 577672

KWT – Kent Wildlife Trust
01622 662012

PBCP – Pegwell Bay Country Park
07889 822412 or 07747 608292

RCP – Reculver Country Park
01227 740676 or 07747 474361 for events

WHAT ELSE?

Look at the variety of events on **www.visitthanet.co.uk/** or for young people at **www.thanetyouthmatters.co.uk**

More wildlife event information can be found at **www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk** and Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust **www.sbbot.co.uk** or **www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces**

At Ramsgate's Royal Harbour offshore wildlife excursions are run by Wildlife Galleon Cruises 07740 071015 **www.galleoncruises.com**
Horizon Sea Safaris 07931 744788 **www.horizonseasafaris.co.uk**
Sea Searcher 07837 562076 **www.seasearcher.co.uk**
Additional trips run from Sandwich Quay (Riverbus) 07958 376183 **www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk/** and Herne Bay (Wildlife Sailings) **www.wildlifesailings.com**

FW Seashore Safaris

Rockpool exploration in search of Thanet's intriguing shore life, with help to identify your finds! (All last 2hrs)

Tues 4 Aug, 5.30pm West Bay, Westgate
 Tues 11 Aug, 9am Western Undercliff, Ramsgate
 Wed 12 Aug, 9.30am Stone Bay, Broadstairs
 Thurs 13 Aug, 10am Botany Bay, Broadstairs
 Fri 14 Aug, 11am Walpole Bay, Cliftonville
 Tues 18 Aug, 4.30pm Nayland Rock, Margate
 Tues 25 Aug, 9.30am Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs
 Wed 26 Aug, 10am Louisa Bay, Broadstairs
 Thurs 27 Aug, 11.30am Minnis Bay, Birchington
 Fri 28 Aug, 11.30am Westbrook Bay, by car park below sunken gardens
 Sun 30 Aug, 2.30pm (1½hr) Minnis Bay, Birchington – Rockpool Ramble with Capt Crabby
 Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/KWT)

Y Coastal Video Workshops

Learn film-making techniques on the coast with Positive Interaction Films. (2-5hrs; for 8 -18s).

Wed 29 July, 1.30pm Joss Bay
 Tue 4 Aug, 3pm West Bay
 Tue 11 Aug, 3pm Joss Bay
 Wed 12 Aug, 9am Stone Bay
 Tue 18 Aug, 3pm Margate Main Sands
 Booking Essential: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y Surfing Taster Lessons

Learn basic surfing with Joss Bay Surf School, or if no surf try out your kayaking skills. (All start at 2pm; last 2hrs; for 8 -18s)
 Every Wed 29 July - 26 Aug
 Meet: Joss Bay, bottom of slope to the beach
 Booking Essential: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

1 1-2 August

Margate Carnival Soul Weekend

Carnival Group (01843 293733)

1 Every Tues in August

Ramsgate Costumed Walks

1 Wed/Fri in Aug, 10am

Surf and Rescue Camp

£15. (2hrs, 8-14yrs). Learn to surf and understand beach safety. www.jossbay.co.uk

Y Geology Rocks!

Get stuck into a hands-on exploration of the rocks and fossils with the Rock Doc (2hrs, 4-14s)

Mon 3 Aug, 2pm Nayland Rock, Margate
 Tues 4 Aug, 2pm West Bay, Westgate
 Wed 5 Aug, 2pm Joss Bay, Broadstairs
 Mon 10 Aug, 10.30am Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs
 Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y Beach Blast!

Fun free beach activities inc. Safaris, Beach Art, games and music for 11-19 year olds, turn up and join in! (4hrs, TCP/Engage)

Tues 4 Aug, 4pm West Bay, Westgate
 Tues 11 Aug, 4pm Joss Bay, Broadstairs
 Tues 18 Aug, 4pm Margate Main Sands

YA BeachART

Get inspired on this "marine life" sand sculpture competition. Turn up, sign up and join in! (2hrs)
 Tues 4 Aug, 4pm - West Bay, Westgate
 Mon 10 Aug, 11am - Ramsgate Main Sands
 Tues 11 Aug, 4pm - Joss Bay, Broadstairs
 Wed 12 Aug, 11.30am - Stone Bay, Broadstairs
 Thur 13 Aug, 12pm - Botany Bay, Broadstairs
 Fri 14 Aug, 1pm - Walpole Bay, Cliftonville

1 7-14 Aug

Folk Week

Broadstairs www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

1 10-15 Aug

Ramsgate Week

www.ramsgateweek.com

6 Wed 12 Aug, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay

Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Meet: Viking Ship Picnic Site, Cliffsend
 Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

1 12-23 Aug

Lark in the Park

www.larkinthe park.com

WF Thur 13 Aug, 10am (2hrs)

Marine Week Seashore Safari

RCP (KWT)

VF Sat 15 Aug, 10am (3hrs)

Sea Garden Task and Picnic

Volunteer your help to look after the sea garden – and bring along you own picnic for lunch!
 Meet: Sea Garden, Ramsgate's East Cliff.
 Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

6 Sat 15 Aug, 2pm (2hrs)

Seaweeds and their Secrets

Find out all about our seaweeds with expert Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum). Meet: Botany Bay, Kingsgate by the chalk stack (TR391712).
 Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

F Family Sailing Taster Sessions

Sat 15 Aug, 10am & 1.30pm
 Sat 22 Aug, 10am & 1.30pm
 (2hrs) Here's your chance to try out your sailing skills with the Margate Yacht Club. Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/TDC/Margate YC)

F Thanet Coast Project @ Quex

1pm & 2.30pm (1hr). QUExplorer activities looking at the science and spectacle of the Victorian coast!
 Mon 17 – Thurs 20 Aug
 1pm and 2.30pm (1 hour)
 Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (Quex/TCP)

1 Wed 19 Aug

Broadstairs Water Gala Day

1 21-23 Aug

Dippers and Dunkers

Margate's burlesque festival

6 Sun 23 Aug, 9.30am (6½hrs, rtn)

History and wildlife walk

Herne Bay to Reculver. (RCP, KWT)

Y Sea Monster Tale-Trail

Discover some real sea monsters and create your own monstrous creature on this storytelling walk (1pm start; 1½hrs; TCP/Scandalmongers)
Mon 24 Aug, 1pm, Minnis Bay, Birchington
Tue 25 Aug, 1pm, Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs
Wed 26 Aug, 1pm, Maritime Museum, Ramsgate
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y Smugglers and Serpents

Stories from the Sea: hear about smugglers and hunt for their lost treasure
Thurs 27 Aug Fri 28 Aug
Meet outside the Fayreness Hotel, Kingsgate (1pm start, 1½hrs; TCP/Scandalmongers)
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

F Darwin200 Seashore Safari

Mon 24 Aug and Wed 26 Aug
(10am, 2hrs) Explore the rocky shore at RCP (KWT)

W Sailing Trips to the Seals

Tue 25 Aug, 8am
Wed 26 Aug, 8.30am
Wade onboard a 'Wildlife Sailing' excursion, includes a visit onto an offshore sandbank.
Minnis Bay, Birchington (£22.50).
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

G Fri 28 Aug, 11am (2hrs)
Rock Doc Walk – Kingsgate
See 12 August

F Fri 28 Aug, 12pm (2hrs)
Seashore Safari
Explore the rocky shore at Herne Bay Neptune car park (KWT)

O 30-31 Aug
Thanet Lions Fete/Summer Fair
Broadstairs

A Sat 5 Sept
Beach Workshop
(Turner Contemporary)

O National Heritage Open Days

11-15 Sept Grange (Pugin's former home)
13 Sept, Quex Museum House and Gardens
14 Sept, Reculver Towers

V Sat 12 Sept, 10am (5hrs)
Sandwich Bay Beachwatch
Meet: Sandwich Bay Toll Gate (KWT)

FW Sat 12 Sept, 11am (2hrs)
Darwin200 Seashore Safari
Exploring the rocky shore at RCP (KWT)

O Sat 12 Sept
Disability Surfing Event
(www.josseybay.co.uk)

G Sun 13 Sept, 5pm (2hrs)
Waders and other Migratory Birds
PBCP (KWT)

G Fri 18 Sept, 9am (2hrs)
Autumn Migration Bird Watch
PBCP (KWT)

Beachwatch 2009

Record and clean beach litter as part of the Marine Conservation Society's annual national campaign.

V Sat 19 Sept, 10am (3hrs)
Plumpudding Beachwatch along the refreshing Northern Sea wall (TR272 393).
Meet outside Minnis Restaurant, Birchington.
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

V Sun 20 Sept, 10am (3hrs)
Pegwell Bay Beachwatch along the National Nature Reserve beach by the cliffs.
Meet on beach below former hoverport access road Cliffsend (TR353 643).
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Contact TCP for details of other local events, such as St Mildreds Bay and Margate Main Sands.

O 19 – 20 Sept
Big Sky Kite Festival
Margate Main Sands

G Sun 20 Sept, 2pm (1½hrs)
Scattering Seeds
Discover how seeds are dispersed. PBCP (KWT)

G Sun 27 Sept, 11am (2hrs)
Rock Doc Walk – Minnis Bay
Learn the language of the rocks.
Meet: Above tidal pool, by chalk cliff (TR287 698)
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

O 28 Sept - 4 Oct
Broadstairs Food Festival

O Thur 1 Oct, 10.30am (10hrs, £41)
The Waverley
Last seagoing paddle steamer cruise up the Thames and through Tower Bridge (return by coach).
Embark - Margate Harbour
(www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk)

M Sat 3 Oct, 11am (1½hr)
Return of the Turnstone!
Find out how we can share the beach with one of our most important coastal winter feathered friends.
Margate Media Centre, Kings Street
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

O Sun 11 Oct
BHF Viking Bike Rides

FW Sun 11 Oct 12pm
Darwin200 Seashore Safari
Explore for marine creatures at RCP (KWT)

O Fri 16 Oct
World Food Day
Winter Gardens, Margate (07777 616697)

W Sat 17 Oct, 3pm (2-3hrs)
Shoresearch – Whiteness
Recording shorelife at Kingsgate. (KWT)

Kent Coastal Week

Sat 24 Oct - Sun 1 Nov 2009
Celebrating Kent's coastal heritage.
www.coastalkent.net/

O 24-25 Oct, Ramsgate Royal Harbour's Fishing and Eating for a Healthy Sea!

Celebrating locally caught sea food and our diversity of sea life! See page 11.

A 24Oct - 12Nov**SeaART2009**

Contemporary art exhibition. (TCP/Belgian Café and other venues). See page 5.

YA SeaART Workshops

Sat 24 Oct, 10.30am (1½hrs)

'Herring' Workshops –

Create your own 'Herring on a stick' to take away to the storytelling walk at 12pm Belgian Café, Ramsgate.

Mon Oct 26, 1pm (2hrs) **BeachART –**
Ramsgate Main Sands

Wed Oct 28 1pm (2hrs) **SeaART Energy –**
harness the on-shore wind!

Fri Oct 30 1pm (2hrs) **BeachART –** Ramsgate Main Sands.

Meet: Obelisk, opp. Belgian Café, Ramsgate.

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y The Mighty Mystery

Calling all explorers! Something intriguing has been washed up on Ramsgate Main Sands. Join Detective S. Noop and help solve the mystery, but watch out for red herrings! (Stories from the sea, including sand art).

Sat 24 Oct, 12pm

Tue 27 Oct, 1pm

Y The Peckish Penguins

Percy and Penelope Penguin have travelled all the way from Antarctica and they're hungry... Help them fill their bellies and build a giant nest on the beach.

Sat 24 Oct, 3pm

Thur 29 Oct, 1pm

Meet: outside Belgian Café, Ramsgate.

(1½hrs; led by Scandalmongers)

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

FW Darwin200 Seashore Safari

Mon 26 Oct, 10am (2hrs)

Fri 30 Oct, 2pm (2hrs)

Explore the rocky shore at RCP (KWT)

M 27 Oct, 8pm (1½hrs)**The End of the Line (film)**

See page 11.

Broadstairs Palace Theatre (TCP/Thanet Film Club)

G Wed 28 Oct, 9am (2hrs)**Autumn Migrant Bird Watch**

PBCP (KWT)

G Wed 28 Oct, 11am (2hrs)**Rock Doc Walk – Dumpton Gap**

Delve into the world of the rocks. (TR396667)

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

WF Sat 31 Oct, 3pm (1½hrs)**Rocky Shore Discovery Tour!**

Meander across rockpools with marine ecologist Ian Humpheryes. Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

AF Sun 1 Nov, 11am (2hrs)**Thanet Coast's Big Draw – 'Fishy Followings'**

Join the *Scandalmongers Adventurers* for a storytelling journey to the centre of the fishy universe, and help create a mighty conch shell in the sand. Meet: Broadstairs harbour

(opp. Tartar Frigate), Viking Bay

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

V Tues 10 Nov, 10am (5hrs approx)**Grassland Management**

PBCP (KWT)

G Sat 14 Nov, 11am (2hrs)**Winter Wildfowl and Waders**

PBCP (KWT)

G Sun 22 Nov, 11am (2hrs)**Rock Dock Walk – Pegwell Bay**

See 12 Aug

G Sun 22 Nov, 11am (1½hrs)**Winter Walk at Reculver**

Looking at cliffs and fossils. (RCP, KWT)

G Sun 20 Dec 12pm (1½hrs)**The Shortest Day**

Find out about Reculver and the Winter Solstice.

(RCP, KWT)

2010**G Jan, Feb & March – TBC (look online), 11am (2hrs)****Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay**

Learn the language of the rocks. Meet: Viking Ship Picnic Site, Cliffsend.

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Thur 21 Jan, 7pm (1hr)

Rage of the Sea

Trust for Thanet Archaeology. Learn how Thanet's coast has been shaped by the sea since the last ice age. Meet: Walpole Bay Hotel, Cliftonville.

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

F Tue 16 Feb, 2pm (2hrs)**Shoreline Detective**

Scour the shoreline for evidence of our marine life washed in by the winter tides. Ramsgate Main Sands. Meet: Outside the Maritime Museum.

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Spring Beach Cleans

V Sat 27 March, 10am TBC (3hrs)

Plumpudding Tideline Tidy

Along the refreshing Northern Sea wall beaches (TR272 393). Meet outside The Minnis Restaurant, Birchington

V Sun 28 March, 10am TBC (3hrs)

Pegwell Bay Tidal Tidy Up!

Meet on beach below former hoverport access road (TR353 643)

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

END OF THE LINE!

The End of the Line is a new film revealing the firsthand effects of our global love affair with fish as food. This is the *Inconvenient Truth* about our oceans and may change the way you think about food! The film is not against fishing or eating fish, but it promotes a responsible attitude towards the oceans **endoftheline.com/** See the film at the Broadstairs Palace Cinema at 8pm on Tuesday 27 October, 2009.

Kent Coastal Week's theme 'Fishing and eating for a healthy sea' (24 October to 1 November 2009) will promote the harvesting of sea food in a responsible and sustainable way, and raising awareness to the rich diversity of life in our seas.

Ramsgate's Royal Harbour on 24 and 25 October will be the main Thanet event with fishing and conservation displays, exhibits, wet-fish stalls, recipe tasters, seal trips and SeaART2009 with children's SeaART workshops and story-telling walks – see page 10 listings.

Useful links:

- Marine Conservation Society **www.fishonline.org** lists fish to eat or avoid, and has a useful 'Pocket Good Fish Guide'.
- Sea Fish Industry Authority **www.seafish.org** promotes good quality, sustainable seafood with links to the 'Responsible Fishing Scheme' standards.
- Marine Stewardship Council **www.msc.org** promotes sustainable fishing practices through its certified sustainable accreditation mark.
- Marine Conservation Society **www.mcsuk.org** cares for our seas, shores and wildlife.
- Produced in Kent **www.producedinkent.co.uk** a new leaflet 'Soul to Sole' that promotes Kentish Sea food and where to buy it.
- Wildlife Trusts **www.wildlifetrusts.org** encourages diversity under its Living Seas campaign.
- Thanet Coast Project **www.thanetcoast.org.uk** raising awareness of the North East Kent European marine site through work and activities with local people
- Kent Coastal Network **www.coastalkent.net**

It's not an ill wind that blows – and the answer may be blowing in the wind around Thanet!

The greatest visual offshore development ever likely to be seen from the North East Kent coast has commenced. In short succession over the next couple of years, we will have the Thanet Offshore wind farm swiftly followed by the London Array.

These projects are important steps towards meeting increased government targets for generating renewable electricity from offshore wind farms.

The Thanet Offshore wind farm foundations work commenced in March 2009. The self-elevating barges, the Sea Jack and Resolution and service vessels have been a familiar sight near Ramsgate harbour, as they ferry construction materials and staff out to site, whilst a guard vessel enforces a safety exclusion zone. Ultimately, 100 Vestas V90 wind turbines will feed 300MW of electricity into the national grid – enough for 240,000 homes. This should boost UK offshore wind capacity by more than 30%.



Thanet's youngsters are well versed in staying safe on the coast thanks to a series of water safety lectures run over the past 10 years by Thanet Leisure Force's lifeguards, the HM Coastguard and, in more recent years, the Thanet Coast Project.

The three organisations, with help from the RNLI, have now gone one step further by working with a local film production company, Positive Interaction Films, to create a short film all about water safety around Thanet's coast.

Funded by the Big Lottery, this 20 minute film is a fun and informative way of getting our children sea savvy, by highlighting dangers to look out for

Water





www.vattenfall.co.uk

The site is located within an area of 13 square miles, starting just seven miles north east of the coast at Kingsgate. It will consist of 10 rows of 10 wind turbines placed at 500m intervals. The cable will come ashore at Pegwell Bay to an onshore substation near the former Richborough power station site. When it is completed it will become the largest operational wind farm in the world.

The project is estimated to cost £780 million, including costs to cover the specialised equipment and skilled workers needed. Vattenfall, the Swedish owners, expect to employ over 200 workers during this construction phase. A specialised maintenance team of about 20 people will help service the farm over its 40 year expected lifespan.

Vattenfall is one of the biggest wind power operators in Britain and the fifth largest energy producer in Europe, and they own the Kentish Flats wind farm (off Herne Bay). Progress of the Thanet Offshore wind farm construction work can be found at www.vattenfall.co.uk

Safety



around the Thanet coast, how to stay safe and have fun on our beaches and how to look after our marine environment. Most importantly the film teaches viewers all about the water safety code:

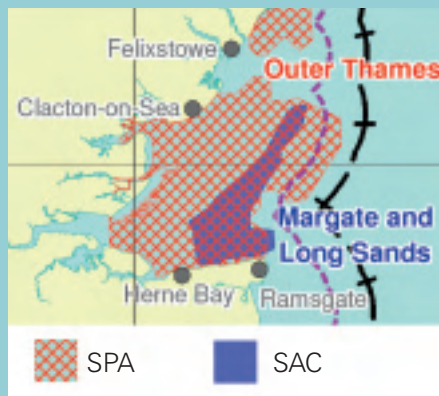
- **Spot the dangers**
- **Take safety advice**
- **Learn how to help**
- **Don't go alone**

The film was originally designed as an educational resource for school children between eight and 14, but so far it has proved to be a big hit all round, with many adults delighted that they have learnt something about water safety too!

'Water Safety in Thanet' can be viewed online at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Words by Naomi Biggs

Catching up with COASTAL DRIFT...



New Marine Natura 2000 sites proposed

Natural England are proposing a new offshore Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) in the Greater Thames Estuary. The 'Inshore Margate and Long Sands' SAC is for sandbanks slightly covered by seawater all the time and the 'Outer Thames Estuary' SPA is for Red Throated Divers. Formal consultation will take place for three months from November 2009 with recommendations to be sent to DEFRA by August 2010. www.naturalengland.org.uk/

Balanced Seas – MCZ

The Balanced Seas Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) Project Team has grown with three new staff joining Project Manager Sue Wells. Details about how the project will work and people can get involved in the process of recommending MCZs within the Eastern Channel will be shown in the next newsletter. For further information, contact Sue Wells at S.M.Wells@kent.ac.uk

Prime Time

Congratulations and our thanks to volunteer wardens Brian and Debbie Stewart-Smith (MCS) and Fred Booth (Kent Wildlife Trust) who attended 10 Downing Street in July in recognition of their valuable voluntary work for wildlife on the coast.

Coastal Benches

Two new benches mark the sad passing of two well-known coastal characters in Cliffsend and Kingsgate. One is in memory of Muriel Arnett, a stalwart supporter of local residents, representing them at the first NE Kent European marine sites Management Scheme workshops in the 1990s. The seat opposite the Fayreness Hotel is in honour of Malcolm Abbot, Thanet's former Coastal Engineer.

Bathing Beauties

Seven of Thanet's beaches have this year received Blue Flag awards, with a further four receiving Quality Coast Awards (QCA) in 2009. Thanet has 10% of the country's 72 Blue Flag beaches. More information can be found in the Tourism's *Beaches and Bays* leaflet.



Oyster Study

Over the last two years, Willie McKnight has been recording the spread and density of Pacific Oysters around our coast. The first phase is complete and will be produced as Natural England Research Report. Phase 2, monitoring priority sites, is now in progress.

Shellfish Collecting

Research has been looking into whether current shellfish harvesting is sustainable around the coast. Thanet Coastal Wardens have contributed records of collectors over the last two years, whilst research has investigated the effects on our periwinkles. The project will be produced as a Natural England Research Report in 2009.

Information panels at Pegwell Bay



Reserve-d Signs

Lookout for brand new information panels and signs around the Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve produced by the Kent Wildlife Trust through support from the grantscape scheme.



Pea crab

a-Pea to sea u!

Shoresearch keen eyes located this small pea crab swimming amongst the mussels at Plumpudding. Next Shoresearch – 17 October, Whiteness.

What the Dickens!

A new Turner to Dickens walk and leaflet covers the four mile route from Turner Contemporary in Margate and follows the ancient St Peters footpath and beyond to the Dickens House Museum in Broadstairs.

www.turneranddickenswalk.co.uk

Hide-a-way

Southern Water have included a new bird hide for local birdwatchers at Foreness Point to the delight of the Thanet RSPB Group (01843 853707), following completion of the Margate and Broadstairs Wastewater Treatment scheme to ensure cleaner seas around our coast.

Kayaking Wardens!

Congratulations to two intrepid volunteer wardens, Alan Welcome and Pat Jarman, who safely circumnavigated the Isle of Thanet to raise funds for the Pilgrim's Hospice.

FIND OUT...



...**why our coast is special** and how local people have agreed upon action to safeguard the coastal birds and marine life in North East Kent in a new booklet. It outlines the work on the North East Kent European marine sites, including the aims of the Thanet Coast Project, the Coastal Codes and progress of the Management Scheme from the 1990s to 2012.

...**how you can volunteer** around the Thanet Coast. A new leaflet tells you how to take part in beach cleans, coastal events and educational activities, or even how to pursue your own research project! (See page 4).



Both are available from local Visitor Centres and libraries, or to download from **www.thanetcoast.org.uk**

...**about 'Fishing and eating for a healthy sea'** during Kent Coastal Week (24 Oct - 1 Nov 2009) and at the Ramsgate's Royal Harbour events at the opening weekend, and throughout the week.

thanet coast



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The Thanet coast, together with Pegwell Bay, is an internationally important asset for wintering birds, the marine life associated with chalk caves, reefs and sandy bays. The area is a designated European Marine Site.

Editors: Tony Child and Nora Aldous.



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Please note: To the best of our knowledge, the information in these articles is correct, but errors may unfortunately occur from time to time. Thanet Coast Project cannot be held responsible for any changes to events and information listed in the newsletter. Please telephone the numbers listed to confirm information. This newsletter can be made available in other formats, including Braille, large print, audiotape or other languages on request.

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