

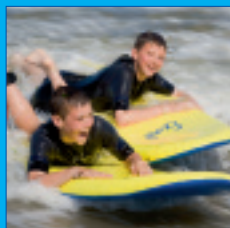


thanet coast

18

spring/summer 2010

Thanet Coast Project Events Break All Records!



Great Eggcase Hunts • Seashore
Safaris • Rock Doc • Seal trips •
Beach Art • Storytelling Walks •
Surfer Tasters • Sailing taster
sessions • SeaART • Kent
Coastal Week • Thanet Coast
Big Draw • Cycle rides • Beach
Cleans • and so many more...



Events – pages 7 to 10



Get in on the Act

What the new Marine Act means –
pages 12-13



working with people
for coastal wildlife



BeachART



Warden get-together



Hermit Crab

Spring Beach Clean
at Plumpudding

Blenny or Shanny – page 16

Coastal Project's Log

The last year has been the most significant for the marine environment in the UK to date. In November 2009 the long awaited Marine and Coastal Access Act finally became reality, and includes a number of measures that propels how we manage the marine environment into the 21st century – see pages 12 and 13.

Many of our Project's activities are shown in this issue – community action (pages 3 and 5); volunteer wardens (page 4); and within the extensive events listings (pages 7-10). A taster of some of the TCP's achievements is shown on page 11.

2009 has been one of our busiest years, with our target of 80 public and community events superseded – thanks to support from the Big Lottery Fund – to a staggering 185 events, enabling over 5,000 people to participate in various different coastal activities.

2010 is the last year of the successful three-year lottery funded project involving children's beach and doorstep play activities. These have been ably coordinated by Nora Aldous over the last year, and I'd like to thank her for all her hard work. Nora is now on maternity leave and can turn her attention to the delights of motherhood! Her work will be covered by Suzie Hooper and Rebecca Causer (job-share) until this lottery project finishes. In the meantime, we are on the verge of taking on a new support assistant, Ben Whitehead, (through the Thanet Future Jobs Fund) to help the project, whilst providing some valuable – and hopefully interesting – work experience with us!

Tony Child, Project Manager

Coastal contents

- 3** Coming Up – Spring School Lectures
- 4-5** Community Action
- 6** Coastal Drift – The Thanet Coast Project
- 7-10** Coastal Events – Events Listings
- 11** Coastal Drift – What have we done?
- 12-13** The Marine Act
- 14-15** Shorelines: snippets of news
- 16** Shanny or Common Blenny – Origami

The Cool Seas Roadshow!

The Cool Seas Roadshow returned this spring for shows within NE Kent, including four Thanet schools – thanks to support from the Big Lottery and Marine Conservation Society www.mcsuk.org

The Thanet Coast Project teamed up with Andy Starbuck to thrill pupils and teachers with life-size inflatable

whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles, seals and porpoises. A series of interactive role-plays helped to explain the threats and how we can all help protect our amazing marine wildlife. Primary schools that took part included St Ethelbert's and Newington in Ramsgate; Holy Trinity and St John's, and Cliftonville in Margate.



SOSF Thomas P. Peschak

Water Safety in Thanet

For two intense weeks during March, a swat team comprising Dave Melmoth (Joss Bay Surf School, representing coastguards), Chris Betts (Thanet Leisureforce, representing lifeguards) and Suzie Hooper and Jasmin Rose (Thanet Coast Project, covering environmental issues and safe play) promoted the Water Safety Code to over 4,000 children from 14 Thanet schools, with support by the

Big Lottery Fund. These highly popular sessions helped pupils to learn about how they can stay safe playing on Thanet's beaches. To demonstrate their water safety awareness, pupils have entered a postcard competition to win a prize of surf lessons at the Joss Bay Surf School. The 'Water Safety in Thanet' video can be viewed at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Volunteers Turn to Stone!

Thanet Coastal wardens have been braving the big freeze this winter to monitor coastal activities and report incidents.

In particular, Tony Sykes was first to report the thousands of dead or dying Velvet Swimming Crabs (see page 14). A number of volunteers working with the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust also bore the brunt of our cold weather, when helping to monitor Turnstone disturbance, and take part in an organised 'count'. It is thought that along with severe cold, the disturbance of Turnstone roosts by beach users may affect their ability to conserve enough energy to

make their long migration back to Canada to breed. This year's biennial survey showed that Turnstone numbers were relatively stable, although the cold northerlies had driven most of them to the relative shelter of Pegwell Bay.

The first 'Coastal Warden Get Together' was held on 20 March, and the new core working group have decided to meet up to four times a year to contribute to the future work, direction and activities of volunteers.

Special thanks go to some very active wardens – Sue Andrews in particular has provided regular records to help identify shellfish harvesters' patterns in her area, but will be 'out of action' until the end of the year; thanks also to Miriam Smith and Brian Westlake who have tirelessly helped clean their own bays of beach litter – at Pegwell Bay and along the Northern Sea Wall respectively – on occasions too numerous to count!



Brett Lewis

Thanet Coastal Warden Activities

Optional Activities 2009-10

- **Climate Change in the Chalk** (Rock Doc, 11 April)
- **Shoresearch – Westgate** (KWT, 29 April)
- **Sandwich Riverbus Special** (7 May)
- **Full Moon Tour** (Willie McKnight, 27 May, see p14)
- **Seaweeds and their Secrets** (Ian Tittley, 6 June)
- **Shoresearch – Stone Bay** (KWT, 27 July)
- **Seashore Safari Volunteer Briefing** (27 July)
- **Summer Seashore Safaris** (throughout August)

Core training

- **Shorelife Identification** (KWT, 12 June)
- **Induction** (TBC)



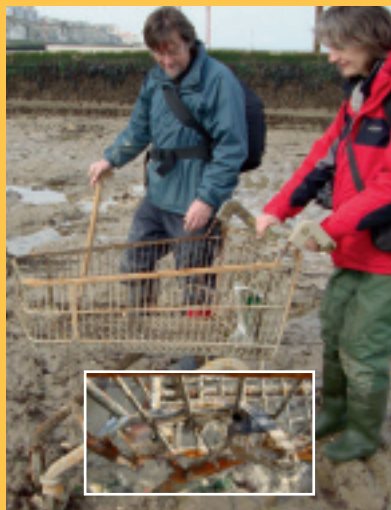
John Edmonds with Velvet Swimming Crabs

COMMUNITY ACTION



Sea Scouts – DYB DYB DIP!

The Thanet Coast Project worked with the Holy Trinity Sea Scouts during their 2009 Admiralty Inspection – an afternoon of exciting activities that were all inspected by the Royal Navy! The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all took part in a seashore safari where they explored the rockpools of Walpole Bay and had great fun discovering intriguing sea life.



Shopping for shocks

Beachwatch 2009 figures show the most common items of litter found on UK beaches were small plastic pieces, and 64% of all the rubbish was made of plastic, posing a threat to our marine wildlife. (For more information, see www.mcsuk.org).

In 2009, Thanet's beach litter was unusually lower than in previous years, probably due to calm conditions at the time. However, the spring site visit by Coastal Wardens to the Walpole Tidal Pool draining did reveal more than expected when a supermarket shopping trolley had trapped its own unfortunate 'catch of the day'.

Eco-Clubs Rule the Waves!

New and very popular after-school 'Eco-Clubs' have been taking place at several schools throughout Thanet thanks to funding from the Big Lottery. Eco-art sessions have been led by 'Art for All' and Ruth Cutler, and Eco-story telling has been led by Scandalmongers. Pupils have been learning about life around the Thanet coastline through a series of fun activities from sea-life mask-making to wild undersea stories. Pupils from primary schools including Garlinge, Dame Janet, Minster/Monkton and St Nicholas-at-Wade completed the five week clubs and came out knowing all sorts of useful facts – for instance that some fish, such as herring, communicate by breaking wind!



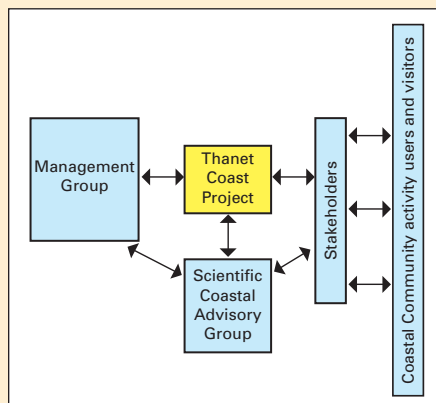
THANET COAST PROJECT -

Working with people for coastal wildlife

The project was set up in 2001 as a direct result of requests by stakeholders at the workshops to find a way forward to help manage the important wildlife and human activities around the North East Kent European marine site (NEKEMS) and help drive forward some of the priorities which people had identified.

TCP is a 'not-for-profit' initiative that reports directly to the NEKEMS Management Group and Stakeholders. However, the project has exceeded expectations by delivering a huge number of public events and community activities. This has included working with related activity providers – from geologists, storytellers and artists to boat operators – to run a variety of events. Projects include work with local people to produce the country's first set of coastal codes, and training of over 100 volunteers under the Thanet Coastal Wardens Scheme to help safeguard their own bays. See page 11 to read more about the project's achievements.

Unfortunately funding is the only problematic side of the project. Varying inconsistent levels from partner support, grants and sponsorship provide the main challenge to the continuation of the project.



The main aims of the TCP are to:

- **Raise awareness of the important marine and bird life**, and how to avoid damaging them
- **Work with local people to safeguard coastal wildlife** and implement the Management Scheme action
- **Encourage and run wildlife related events** and make links with wildlife, green tourism, coastscape and the arts
- **Be a focal point for enquiries and gathering information** on coastal wildlife and environmental issues
- **Keep everyone informed with progress** through various means, including newsletters, articles and stakeholder workshops



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
- C** Cycle Event
- F** Family Event
- G** Guided Walk
- M** Meeting/Workshop
- O** 'Other' Events
- V** Volunteer Task
- W** Wildlife-related
- Y** Youth Event

C *For cycle rides, please ensure your bike is roadworthy or the leader may refuse to take you! We also recommend riders wear helmets and this is compulsory for children.*

V *For volunteer tasks wear stout footwear and suitable clothing (waterproofs /wind proofs, depending on the weather). Gloves and bags will be provided.*

F *Suitable for children and families. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.*

Book: Booking Essential for TCP events, places are limited, so please reserve your place online 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 **01843 577577**.

TCP – Thanet Coast Project

01843 577672

www.thanetcoast.org.uk

KWT – Kent Wildlife Trust

01622 662012

www.kentwildlifetrust.co.uk

PBCP – Pegwell Bay Country Park

07889 822412 or 07747 608292

RCP – Sandwich Bay Bird

Observatory Trust 01304 617341

www.sbbot.co.uk



WHAT ELSE?

Look at the variety of events on www.visitthanet.co.uk or for young people at www.thaneyouthmatters.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 Horizon Sea Safaris (07931 744788)

www.horizonseasafaris.co.uk
Sea Searcher (07837 562076)
www.seasearcher.co.uk

Riverbus trips also run from Sandwich Quay (07958 376183)
www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk



W Horizon Sea Safaris Easter Specials

Ramsgate Royal Harbour (1hr, £12, 5+yrs)
Offshore safari around the coast to Kent largest National Nature Reserve at Sandwich and Pegwell Bay to see local wildlife, with a chance of see seals. These taster sessions are all at normal child rate (£12) for everyone!

Dates and times:

3 April 14.00, 15.30 & 17.00

4 April 14.30 17.00

Book and pay online: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

O 4-5 April

Spring Cold Water Classic Surf Competition

www.josseybay.co.uk

G Mon 5 Apr, 11am (2hrs, 14+yrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Kingsgate

Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils.

Meet: outside Fayreness Hotel

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y Surfing Taster Lessons (2hrs, 8-18yrs)

Learn basic surfing skills with Joss Bay Surf School, or if conditions do not permit surfing, try out your kayaking skills.

Mon 5 April 2pm

Mon 12 April 10am

Meet: Joss Bay, bottom of slope to the beach

Booking Essential: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y Great Egg Case Hunts! (2hrs, 4-14yrs)

Hunt for shark egg cases and create a marine masterpiece with Art for All.

Tue 6 April 1pm – Ramsgate Main Sands,

Meet: Outside Maritime Museum

Wed 7 April 1pm – Margate Main Sands, Meet:

Nayland Shelter

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y Engage Easter Blasts (3hrs, 11-18s)

A variety of free fun activities on offer – just turn up and join in!

Thur 8 April 1pm – Dane Park, Margate

Fri 9 April 1pm – Victoria Gardens, Broadstairs

Thur 15 April 1pm – Warre Rec, Ramsgate (by swimming pool)

www.thanetyouthmatters.co.uk

W Sea Safaris Easter Specials

Ramsgate Royal Harbour (1hr, £12, 5+yrs)

See 3-4 April above

10 April 8.30, 10.00 & 11.30

11 April 9.30, 11.00 & 12.30

Book and pay online: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y Mon 12 April, 2pm (2hrs, 4-14yrs)

Geology Rocks

Get stuck into a hands-on exploration of the rocks and fossils of our coast with the Rock Doc.

Meet: Beach Kiosk, Botany Bay

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Y Thornback Tales

Adventures with Scandalmongers (2hrs, 4-14s)
Wild and wacky storytelling walk bursting with games and art. Join the birds in a race for the throne, discover why the crab runs sideways!

Tue 13 April, 2pm – Margate Main Sands.

Meet: Nayland shelter

Wed 14 April, 2pm – Ramsgate Main Sands.

Meet: outside Maritime Museum

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

W Sea Safaris Easter Specials (£12 each)

Ramsgate Royal Harbour

See 3-4 April above

17 April 12.30, 14.00 and 15.30

18 April 13.30, 15.00 & 16.30

Book and pay online: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

VF Sat 24 April, 10am (3hrs, All Ages 5+)

Sea Garden – Spring Task

Volunteer task to help clean up the the Sea Garden in time for spring. Equipment provided.

Meet: Sea Garden, Ramsgate's Eastcliff

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

GW Sun 21 April, 10am (2hrs)

First Signs of Spring

Search for the first wild flowers and migrant birds.
PBCEP (KWT)

W Thur 29 April, 5pm (2-3hrs, 14+)

Shoresearch – West Bay, Westgate

Survey of the shore life on the Point, and looking out for a new non-native algae.

Meet: Sea Rd, junct. with Domneva Rd (TR 318700)

Book: KWT

O May-Sept

St Peter's Village Tours

Churchyard Tour (1hr) and World War I & II Tours (1hr)

01843 868646 www.villagetour.co.uk

O 1-3 May

May Fair Celebrations

Victoria Gardens, Broadstairs

O 2-8 May

Thanet Walking Festival

www.thanetwalkingfestival.co.uk

M May, 7-9pm (TBC)

NE Kent European Marine Sites

Stakeholder Meeting/Workshop

to review coastal codes

Walpole Bay Hotel (TCP)

O 22-31 May

Dunkirk Little Ships

70th anniversary of Operation Dynamo. Up to 50 vessels gathering from 24th, crossing on 27th and returning 31st Ramsgate Harbour (01843 572100)

G Sun 23 May, 11am (2hrs, 14+)

Rock Doc Walk – Stone Bay

Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils.

Meet: outside Broadstairs Harbour Master Office

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

W Mon 24 May, 10.30am (7hrs, 14+, £25/20)

An introduction to seashore life

Study Day led by Fred Booth, Bryony Chapman and Julie Thomsett at Reculver Country Park.

Book: KWT

A 25 May-5June

Shore Is A Load Of Rubbish

Bay Art Gallery, William Street, Herne Bay.

W Fri 28 May, 7.30pm (2hrs, 14+)

Shoresearch – Beltinge

Evening walk with Ian Tittley along the seashore.

Meet: Contact KWT.

O 29 May

Spring Rally

Crampton Tower Museum (01843 871133)

CF Mon 31 May, 2pm (2½hrs, 5miles & return)
Cycle to the Vikings

Gentle cycle from Viking Bay along the clifftops to visit the Hugin 'Viking Ship' at Cliffsend, and back

Meet: Broadstairs Clocktower (by bandstand)

YF Tue 1 June, 10.30am (2 hrs, 4-14yrs)

Storytelling Walk: Adventures with Scandalmongers

Use your imagination to explore all sorts of marine themes!

Meet: Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs, bottom of the slope

Y Tue 1 June, 1pm (2 hrs, 8-18yrs)

Surfing Taster Lesson

Learn basic surfing skills with Joss Bay Surf School, or if conditions do not permit surfing, try out your kayaking skills. (8-18s)

Meet: Joss Bay, bottom of slope to the beach

Y Thurs 3 Jun, 11am (2hrs, 4-14yrs)

Geology Rocks

Get stuck into a hands-on exploration of the rocks and fossils of our coast with the Rock Doc.

Meet: Joss Bay, bottom of slope to the beach

WF Sat 5 June, 11.30am (1½hrs, 4-16yrs)

Rocky Shore Crab Tour!

Get equipped (provided) to explore with marine ecologist Ian Humpheryes, looking for crabs and other shore life!

Meet: Walpole Bay, Cliftonville

G Sun 6 June, 12pm (2hrs, 14+yrs)

Seaweeds and their Secrets

Everything you ever wanted to know about seaweeds, hear and ask expert Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum)

Meet: by beach kiosk, Botany Bay, Kingsgate

All book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk



O Sun 6 June

Great Bucket and Spade Run

Historic vehicle run from Faversham to Palm Bay

G Tue 8 June, 3pm (2hrs)

Cliffs, Sea Caves and Castles

World Ocean Day 'walk and talk' as you scavenge around the beautiful Kingsgate foreshore over rocks and through arches, and back up along the cliff top

Meet: Outside Fayreness Hotel, Kingsgate.

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

G Sun 13 Jun, 11am (2hrs, 14+yrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell

Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils.

Meet: by Hugin Viking Ship, Cliffsend

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

GF 12-13 June, 10am (6hrs)

Festival of Wildlife!

Bug hunting, photography advice to table top seashore exploration and guided walks to see the nature reserve.

PBCP (KWT)

O 19 – 27 June

Bike Week

C Fri 18 June, 6.30pm (2½hrs, 7+ years; 6 miles and return)

Evening Sunset Cycle!

Gentle coastal cycle into the setting sun from Margate to Minnis Bay

Meet: by Droit House, Margate Harbour

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/Thanet Cycle Forum)

GW Fri 18 June, 7pm (2hrs)

Evening Orchids Walk

See the spectacular lizard, bee and southern marsh orchids

PBCP (KWT)

O 19-20

Margate's Big Event

Land and Air displays (01843 577638)

O 19-20

Q Fest

www.qfest.co.uk

O 19-25

Broadstairs Dickens Festival

01843 861827



26-27

Viking Burning Boat

Viking Bay Broadstairs (01843 862123)

27

Raft Race

Margate Beach (01843 293733)

GW Sat 26 June, 7.30pm (1hr+bbq)

Moth Evening & BBQ

See a variety of moths from set traps.
PBCP (KWT); BBQ-£5, Book: 01843 851137)

G Fri 2 July, 2pm

Orchids, Butterflies and Other Wild Flowers

Join a reserve warden on a walk in search of the spectacular lizard, bee and marsh orchids.
PBCP (KWT)

3-4 July

Broadstairs Extravaganza

Victoria Gdns, Broadstairs (01227 700894)

10-11 July

Quexpo Country Fair/Music

Quex Estate (01227 700894)

10-11 July

Margate Masters National Beach Volleyball

Margate (01843 577367)

17 July

Thanet Pride Festival

Marine Drive and Marine Gardens

18 July

Race for Life

Women fund raiser Palm Bay www.raceforlife.org

24-25 July

Summer Weekend Event

Broadstairs Victorians (01843 863841)

25 July

Ramsgate Carnival

(07999 419623).

W Sat 17 July, 9.30am (2-3hrs, 14+)

Shoresearch – Stone Bay

Survey of the chalk foreshore in Broadstairs.
Meet: Contact KWT

G Sun 18 July, 11am (2hrs, 14+ yrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Dumpton Gap

Delve into the world of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils.

Meet at top of the slope (TR396667)

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

G Wed 21 July, 6.30pm

Sandwich Terns at Sandwich Bay

A short walk to look at the impressive flock of Sandwich terns and other migratory birds.

PBCP (KWT)

23-25 July

Sound Island Music Festival

Quex Park, Birchington www.quexpark.co.uk

C Mon 26 July, 10am (4hrs, 7+ yrs; 8 miles & return)

Edge of the World Cycle Tour

Gentle cycle along the scenic Kingsgate and North Foreland coastline to Broadstairs' Viking Bay.

Meet: Outside Droit House, Margate Harbour

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/Thanet Cycle Forum)

Y Wed 28 July, 12pm (and every Wed. in Aug; 2 hrs, 8-18 yrs)

Surfing Taster Lesson

Learn basic surfing skills with Joss Bay Surf School, or if conditions do not permit surfing, try out your kayak skills.

Meet: Joss Bay, bottom of slope to the beach

Booking Essential: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

FW Early Riser's Seashore Safaris (2hrs, 4-14s)

Explore the rocky shore to find and identify Thanet's intriguing sea life. Equipment provided!

Wed 28 July 9am – Minnis Bay,

Birchington (CT7 9QP)

Meet by tidal pool nr. chalk cliff

Thur 29 July 9am – West Bay,

Westgate (CT8 8QG)

Meet by promenade café

Fri 30 July 9.30am – Nayland Rock,

Margate (CT9 5AJ)

Meet by Nayland shelter

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

31 July-1 Aug

Margate Carnival Weekend

(01843 293733)

31 July-1 Aug

1940s Thanet at War Weekend

Government Acre (01843 590242)

Look out for a variety of
Summer Beach Play events,
with Seashore Safaris
starting
from
Mon 2 Aug



What's the Project been up to?

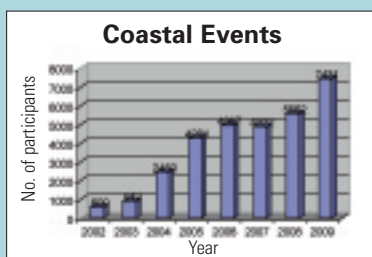
It's always difficult to explain exactly what the Thanet Coast Project (TCP) has been up to, as it does so much, especially as there are just two full-time staff (supported by volunteers, partners and working with other activity providers). Over the last few years it has become an example of good practice amongst similar projects and Coastal Partnerships around the country, in particular for:

- Stakeholder consensus workshops to develop and agree their own Management Scheme (2001-6)
- Review of the Scheme, using 'ecosystem principles' (2007-12)
- Local people producing their own set of voluntary 'Coastal Codes' (2002)
- Setting up and supporting voluntary 'Coastal Wardens' (2004)
- Extensive public events programme (since 2002)*
- Wide variety of community engagement events (since 2004)*
- Engaging with environmental and local artists – SeaART (since 2004)
- Raising awareness of the importance of the coastline for wildlife – from zero to 62% (2001-09 TDC Beaches and Bays Survey)
- Local activity agreements within Pegwell Bay
- Many innovative projects – from creating 'Water Safety in Thanet' film; Summer Beach Play and Doorstep Play Activities; new after-school Eco-Clubs; running two teacher training beach days (2009) ... and the list keeps going!



2009/10

The TCP has excelled itself with the most extensive programme of public and community events to date – more than 185 events in 2009, engaging over 7,400 people, thanks to Big Lottery support for Children's Play.



Note: Public and community events, excludes School Lectures/Roadshows (see page 3 – with additional 5,000 pupils)



Great Eggcase Hunts • Seashore Safaris • Rock Doc • Seal trips • Beach Art • Storytelling Walks • Surfer Tasters • Sailing taster sessions • SeaART • Kent Coastal Week • Thanet Coast Big Draw • Cycle rides • Beach Cleans • and so many more...

The Marine and Coastal Access Act is a major landmark in the conservation of our seas.

After ten years of campaigning by the various NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) like the Wildlife Trusts, the Marine and Coastal Access Bill became an Act on the 12 November 2009. This momentous event for UK marine conservation marks the beginning of a new era, which will hopefully make a real difference to our seas, and shows how parliamentarians, government and the NGOs can successfully work together.

The Act includes new systems for managing and protecting our seas through:

1. The establishment of a Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
2. A new marine planning system
3. A more efficient and transparent marine licensing system
4. Modernised inshore fisheries management
5. Better management for migratory and freshwater fisheries
6. New mechanisms for conserving marine wildlife

The Act has the potential to play a huge role in the move towards sustainable management of our seas. It applies to inshore waters (from the coast to 12 nautical miles) around England and Wales, and to offshore waters (from 12 to 200 nautical miles) around the UK. In addition, the Act will help to establish a walking route and better public access around the English coastline. This will be completed in stages, with the Kent stage due to start in 2011.

The **Balanced Seas Project** team gave a presentation at the North East Kent coast stakeholder meeting in October 2009 about the approach to help identify new 'marine conservation zones' (MCZ) to protect nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology. To find out more, view their new website www.balancedseas.org

The Marine and Coastal Access Act



A LAND FOR OUR

'Seaweeds and their Secrets': Seaweeds and their Secrets

Coastal Access Act 2009



In particular, the Act will include:

The designation of **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** throughout UK seas

These will consist of European marine sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and new nationally important sites designated by the Act, known as Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

These sites will protect examples of the full range of 'typical' biodiversity, as well as rare and threatened habitats and wildlife, and will be led by the Balanced Seas project in the south-east www.balancedseas.org

The establishment of regional **Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Agencies (IFCAs)**, with new duties and powers (England only)

The new fisheries management bodies (replacing the Sea Fisheries committees) will have the power to put inshore fisheries on a sustainable footing. They will address the sustainability of fisheries and also the impacts of fishing on the wider marine environment.

The IFCAs will also play an important role in the management of the MCZs, and will be responsible for creating and enforcing bylaws to manage the fisheries in these areas.

The establishment of the **Marine Management Organisation (MMO)** and the implementation of marine planning

The UK MMO (based in Newcastle) started on 1 April 2010 and is the leading body with responsibility for the sustainable development of the UK marine area. It will produce marine plans, regulate activities under the reformed licensing regime, advise on major infrastructure projects in the marine environment and drive forward the collection of marine data.

More information at www.defra.gov.uk

SHORELINES

Pegwell Bay study

A major scientific study into the effects of human disturbance on the birds of Pegwell Bay near Ramsgate will take two years to complete. It is funded by Natural England, GrantScape and Kent Wildlife Trust, and overseen by a working group of organisations including the RSPB, Environment Agency, British Trust for Ornithology and University of Kent. The findings will be used to inform the future management of the National Nature Reserve.

From Private Eye...

11 January 2010

The Archbishop of Canterbury helped the Greek community in East Kent with the 'Blessing of the Seas' in Margate on the Thanet Coast.

12 January 2010

Volunteer Tony Sykes reported the deaths of thousands of velvet swimming crabs around the Thanet coast.

(The crabs seem to have been caught out by the cold winter weather for the second year in a row. Private Eye didn't pick up on the fact that one of the common names for this crab is the devil crab!)



Seagull problem bagged!

Homes in Ramsgate's Eastcliff have been having a great success in trialling new seagull proof bags (made out of polypropylene which protects the black bag inside) to reduce attacks on the rubbish bags and help improve the street cleanliness in the area.



New ferries for Ramsgate

LD Lines and Transeuropa Ferries are working together to bring in a new service which should help boost passenger and freight services across the channel between Ramsgate and Ostend, Belgium.

We will visit you!

Thanet Visitor information has changed with staff now touring with a mobile centre to all the major events in the area, as well as operating from the Margate Visitor Information Centre (12-13 the Parade; 01843 577577).

In Margate's Sea Defence

Funding of £4 million from the Environment Agency has been allocated to improve Margate's sea defences for protection up from a level of one in 20 year, to one in 200 year storms. Construction would take place in 2011/12.

Getting Thanet wind of it?

Great progress has been made throughout the last year on the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, making it the largest when completed in October 2010. Recent engineering activities have seen even more of the turbines put in position, and the completion of the cabling ashore into Pegwell Bay.

www.vattenfall.co.uk

'Array 'Array!

The Thames Array is proposed to be even bigger than the Thanet Wind Farm, and will help establish more servicing jobs based in Ramsgate harbour. Based 20km (12 miles) from the Kent and Essex coasts in the outer Thames Estuary, it would aim to be the largest by producing nearly 7% of the UK Government's target of providing 15.4% of all electricity supply from renewable sources by 2015. www.londonarray.com



W. McKnight

Cliff falls?

The spell of cold and wet weather over the last winter has led to more frequent and larger chalk falls occurring than in recent years. Noticeably besides the Pegwell Caravan Park, and there has been emergency work carried out at other areas, such as Stone Bay, Broadstairs.

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.

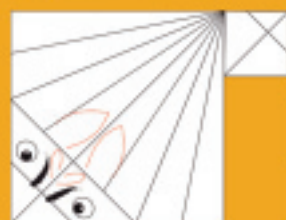
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Please note: To the best of our knowledge, the information in these articles is correct, but errors may unfortunately occur from time to time. Thanet Coast Project cannot be held responsible for any changes to events and information listed in the newsletter. 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.

Make your own Shanny!



1. Cut along red dotted lines, taking care not to cut the shapes out completely



2. Turn fish over and fold inwards along red lines, starting with fold a



3. Fold flap a upright, fold lines b inwards, then unfold, fold shape in half along line c



4. Fold fins out and down and pierce a hole in the top to hang. Try to make some more to hang as a mobile!

