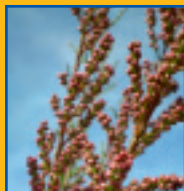




spring/summer 2009



Planting drought tolerant plants on the coast at the Sea Garden – see pages 12-13



working with people
for coastal wildlife

Coastal Project's Log

Welcome to the spring round up of news and activities around the North East Kent European marine sites.

Spring fever hits the coast and we have loads of events and activities for you to try (see pages 3 & 7–10) including a few new ones, so don't miss out.

We take a brief look at the advisory group who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss marine issues, exchange scientific know-how and promote research studies which are required to make sure the management of the coast is based on informed decisions (page 6).

The Sea Garden plants help to illustrate that choosing the right plant for your own circumstances can help conserve the need for water, and can often attract wildlife (pages 12–13).

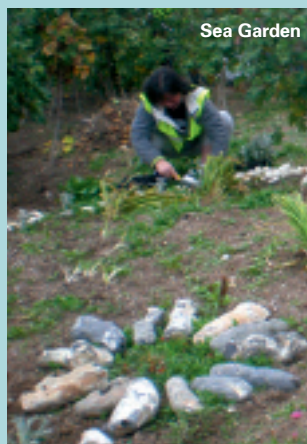
You'll also see there are plenty of Shoreline snippets of news to keep you informed on marine protection, from around the world to closer at home (page 11).

Finally, I'd like to say a huge "thank you" to my colleague Naomi Biggs for her great contribution to the educational work for the project over the last four years. On behalf of everyone that has had the pleasure of her infectious enthusiasm and positive encouragement; I know we will all want to wish her good luck on her return to Tobago with Coral Cay, and on her future world travels! She leaves a great legacy and a pair of very colourful wellies to fill!

Tony Child, Project Manager

Coastal contents

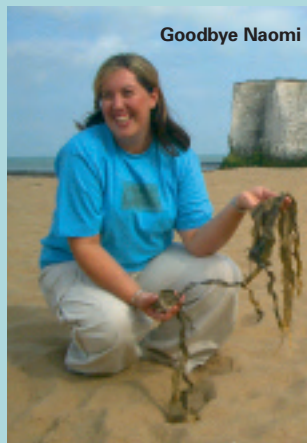
- 3** Coming Up
- 4-5** Community Action
- 6** Coastal Drift – NEKSCAG (Advisory Group)
- 7-10** Coastal Events – listings
- 11** Coastal drift – marine protection
- 12-13** Sea Beat the Drought
- 14-15** Shorelines: snippets of news



Sea Garden



Beach Play



Goodbye Naomi

What's new?

Under 18s can explore the underwater world in exciting new ways this spring with three new Beach Play events to take part in. The first will involve donning a scuba tank



Kent Scuba

and taking to Ramsgate's swimming pool for a scuba taster session. With Kent Scuba on hand to help you practice breathing underwater, you'll be swimming like a dolphin in no time. Two free hour-long Discover Scuba sessions will take place as part of Thanet Engage's Easter Blast event for 11 to 18 year olds, at Ramsgate's Warre Rec on Thursday 9 April.

The Coast Project has also linked up with Thanet's newest theatre company 'Scandalmongers' to deliver two whacky storytelling walks. The 'Sea Monster Tale-Trail' and 'Smugglers and Serpents' will have children around the isle captivated with all sorts of fishy stories from the sea and a chance to create your very own sea monsters.

Check out pages 7 to 10 for more details of all our upcoming Thanet Coast Project events.

Stakeholders attending the **North East Kent Coast Stakeholder**

meetings and workshops have agreed on a number of new projects which they would like to see explored, including:

- Thanet Coastal Arts, further information online – consultation to finish spring 2009
- Marine Wildlife Watching policy for operators and code for activity groups – consultation to start spring 2009
- Fossil policy and code: for extraction – consultation to commence spring 2009

The next stakeholder event is on Wed 6 May 2009.



Ruth Cutler's Sandscripts

Thanet Coastal Wardens

Thanet's Coastal Wardens have lent a hand to our Turnstone population, by helping design a campaign to reduce human impact to the birds over the winter months each year. The volunteers, who were asked for their input into the campaign at last year's celebratory anniversary event, suggested using a variety of way-marker signs and posters to point out bird roost sites, so the public know which spots along the coast to avoid. With simple tag lines like "Let me Rest" to grab the attention of everyone from dog walkers to sand sculptors, the important bird species will hopefully have a very peaceful time next winter!

The thinking caps stayed well and truly on, as the Coastal Wardens were next tasked with coming up with quirky marine creature names. Characters like Joss the Jellyfish and Billie the Barnacle will soon be coming to a bay near you, starring on six brand new bay information signs around the coast.

This year's training timetable is packed with events requested by the volunteers themselves, including some extra practical tasks, both cleaning up Pegwell Bay and planting up the Sea Garden! If you are keen to get involved as a volunteer Coastal Warden, don't miss the next introductory training day, which will be held on Saturday 18 April.

Thanet Coastal Warden Activities

Optional Activities 2009

- Shoresearch, Margate (KWT, Fri 8 Mar)
- Sea Garden Volunteer Task (TCP, Sat 4 April)
- Fossil Zoning (Rock Doc, Sun 17 May)
- Local Catch Up! (TCP, Mon 1 – Fri 5 June)
- Shoresearch, Plumpudding (KWT, Sat 6 June)
- Chalk Grassland Volunteer Task (TDC, Fri 26 June)
- Wildlife Photography Workshop (Brett Lewis, Sun 5 July)
- Seashore Safari Briefing (TCP, Tues 21 July)
- Shoresearch, Westgate/Birchington (KWT, Thurs 23 July)

Induction Training

- Introduction (Sat 18 April)
- Shorelife Identification (KWT, Wed 6 May)



Willie McKnight

COMMUNITY ACTION

Newington Primary's year six pupils have been setting a great example by learning about the effects of litter around the coast and designing solutions to the problem of marine pollution!

The children took part in a workshop with the Thanet Coast Project looking at types of coastal pollution and the harm it can cause wildlife. They then visited Pegwell Bay with litter pickers at the ready, clearing away sack fulls of fishing debris that had washed up over winter. After experiencing the issues for themselves, the children set about creating ways to reduce the amount of rubbish on the coast, including designing posters and Powerpoint presentations to educate the public on the problem. They even wrote letters to the council, suggesting improvements to the cleansing service.



Newington Primary



Newington Primary

Easter Blasts!

Young people are set to have a blast this Easter at a series of free events across Thanet. Organised by Engage, a group of organisations who work together to put on youth events for 11 to 18 year olds, the Easter Blast events will be taking place from 1pm – 5pm on the following dates:

Tues 7 April Millmead Surestart, Cliftonville

Thurs 9 April Warre Rec, Ramsgate

Tues 14 April Upton Primary, Broadstairs

The Thanet Coast Project will be working with Margate's Art for All team to help young people design marine art on bags and t-shirts, Thanet Council's sports team will be getting everyone fit with football, dance machines, athletics and more. Or join in with giant games, music making, break dancing, cheerleading and much more!

NEKSCAG - The Coastal Advisory Group

The North East Kent European Marine Sites (NEKEMS) management scheme needs to be based upon reliable information and knowledge. We know far too little about how the local marine environment really works – and it is part of the remit of the **North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group** (NEKSCAG) to discuss issues and help promote local research.

NEKSCAG is made up of a group of scientists, government agencies and representatives from a range of non-governmental organisations, all with some level of interest in the North East Kent coast. The group holds informal meetings about four times a year to discuss, solve problems or exchange information on a wide range of coastal and marine issues affecting a core area from Whitstable around the Thanet coast to Deal - broadly reflecting the area covered by the NEKEMS.

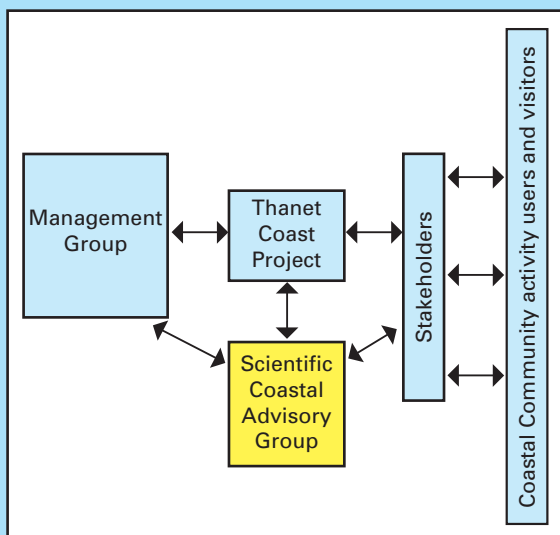
NEKSCAG aims to:

- Act as a focus for gathering and giving out coastal information
- Initiate or promote research to investigate local scientific issues
- Work, mainly in conjunction with the relevant authorities, to influence coastal policy decisions
- Advise the NEKEMS Management Group, and
- Maintain appropriate contact with local stakeholders

NEKSCAG achievements

include setting up a coastal research database (held at the Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre); developing a research code; listing potential research projects; initiating a shellfish harvesting study; and running successful biennial local coastal research conferences and workshops.

Dr Geoff Meaden,
Canterbury Christ Church
University, chairs the group.



More information about NEKSCAG, the research conferences and potential projects can be found at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

SPRING 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.

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.

F These activities are suitable for children and families. However, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

V For volunteer tasks – wear stout footwear and suitable clothing (waterproofs /windproofs, depending on the weather). For beach cleans, gloves and bags will be provided. Volunteer Tasks run with support from Age Concern's Lottery funded 'Fit as a Fiddle', and beach cleans with support from Tesco Extra Broadstairs.

WHAT ELSE?

Look at the variety of events on **www.visitthanet.co.uk** or children's events at **www.thanetyouthmatters.co.uk**

Galleon Cruises Ramsgate Harbour (from £25) 07740 071015

Sea Searcher Boat Trips Ramsgate Harbour (from £3; £20 seal trips) 07837 562076 www.seasearcher.co.uk

Sandwich Riverbus Sandwich Quay (from £6; £20 seal trips) 07958 376183 www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk

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

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

07747 474361

Book: Booking Essential. For TCP events, you can use the 'online' booking system to reserve your place. See the "What's On" section in **www.thanetcoast.org.uk**

If you do not have access to the internet, you can book through the **Thanet Visitor Information Centres** on **0870 2646111**, or through the Thanet Coast Project, to book online for you.



V Sat 4 April, 10am (3hrs)

Sea Garden Volunteer Task

Volunteer to help plant up the Sea Garden in time for spring. Equipment provided
Meet: Sea Garden, Ramsgate's Eastcliff (TCP)

Y Great Egg Case Hunts! (2hrs)

Hunt for shark egg cases and create a marine masterpiece with Art4All
Mon 6 April 2pm – West Bay, Meet: West Bay Café
Wed 8 April 2pm – Ramsgate Main Sands, Meet: outside Maritime Museum
Thurs 9 April 10am – Margate Main Sands, Meet: Nayland Shelter
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

Y Easter Blasts (4hrs)

A variety of free fun activities for 11-19 yrs turn up and join in
Tues 7 April 1pm – Surestart Millmead
Thurs 9 April 1pm – Warre Rec, Ramsgate (behind Ramsgate swimming pool)
Tues 14 April 1pm – Upton School, Broadstairs
www.thanetyouthmatters.co.uk

Y Surfing Taster Lessons (2hrs)

Learn basic surfing skills with Joss Bay Surf School
Wed 8 April, 10am
Wed 15 April, 2pm
Meet: Bottom of slope to the beach
Booking Essential: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

Y Thurs 9 April, 2pm and 3pm (1hr each)

Discover Scuba (10 – 18 yrs only)

Practice blowing underwater bubbles with these scuba taster sessions
Meet: Ramsgate Pool
Booking Essential: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

G Sun 12 April, 10am (2hrs)

First Signs of Spring

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

Y Rockpool Rambles (2hrs)

Come on-board Capt. Crabby's rambles across the shores, hunting for marine beasts
Tues 14 April 9am – St Mildred's Bay, Meet: Next to Pav's Cafe
Wed 15 April 9.30am – Stone Bay, Meet: bottom of the main stairs down to beach
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)



Seaweeds and their Secrets

G Sun 12 April, 10am (2½hrs)

Walk off the Chocolate

Beach walk to Bishopstone Glen, and back
Meet: Reculver Country Park main car park (KWT)

Y Thurs 16 Apr, 10.30am (2hrs)

Geology Rocks (suitable for U14s)

Get stuck into a hands-on exploration of the rocks and fossils of our coast with the Rock Doc Minnis Bay
Meet: next to the tidal pool
Booking: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

Y Thurs 16 Apr, 2pm (2hrs)

Sea Monster Tale-Trail

Discover real sea monsters living on our coast and create your own monstrous creature on this storytelling walk
Meet: outside Maritime Museum, Ramsgate harbour
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

G Sun 19 Apr, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Kingsgate

Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils
Meet: outside Fayreness Hotel
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

F Sun 19 April, 2pm (2hrs)

Seashore Safari

Explore the rocky shore at Reculver Country Park
Meet: Main car park (KWT)

O 16-17 April

Heineken Race of the Classics

Flotilla of 20 tall ships visit Ramsgate Harbour, weather permitting 01843 572103

M Sun 3 May

The chalk of Northern Thanet

Study day of the chalk and ice age deposits around Joss Bay, Broadstairs led by Peter Golding £25
Book direct with KWT

O 3-9 May

Thanet Walking Festival

www.thanetwalkingfestival.co.uk

M Wed 6 May

North East Kent European Marine Sites –

Stakeholder Meeting

Walpole Bay Hotel, Cliftonville

G Wed 20 May, 7pm (2hrs)

Behind the Scenes

An inside look at the conservation projects at the National Nature Reserve
PCBP (KWT)

V Sat 23 May, 10am (3hrs)

Sea Garden Volunteer Task

See 4 April

G Sun 24 May, 6.30pm (1½hrs)

Seaweeds and their Secrets

Everything you ever wanted to know about seaweeds, ask expert Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum)
Dumpton Gap
Meet: bottom of slope down to beach
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk



Sea Monster Tale-Trail

C Mon 25 May, 2pm (2½hrs)

Cycle to the Vikings

Gentle cycle from Viking Bay following the clifftops to visit the Hugin Viking Ship at Pegwell, and back Meet: Broadstairs Harbour
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/Thanet Cycle Forum)

O Mon 25 May

Margate Meltdown

0208 9611000

M Tues 26 May, 7pm (1hr)

Message in the Waves Film Night

A thought provoking film on the pressures on our seas produced by the Marine Conservation Society Margate Media Centre, King Street
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

Y Wed 27 May, 10am (1½hrs)

Smugglers and Serpents: Stories from the Sea

Hear about smugglers and hunt for their lost treasure with storyteller Emily Parrish
Meet: outside the Fayreness Hotel
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

G Wed 27 May

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 (TCP)

O Thurs 28 May, 7pm (1hr)

Smugglers Trail Walk

Meet: Albion Car Park, Broadstairs last Thursday every month to September

FW Fri 29 May, 10am (2hrs)

Darwin200 Seashore Safari

Explore the rocky shore at Reculver Country Park
Meet: Reculver Country Park main car park (KWT)

W Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals (4hrs)

Wade onboard a 'Wildlife Sailing' excursion from Minnis Bay. The trip includes a visit onto an offshore sandbank. Minnis Bay, Birchington (£22.50)

Sat 30 May 9am

Sun 31 May 10am

Sat 27 June 8am

Sun 28 June 9am

Book and pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

O 5-8 June

The Grange Open Days

Visit Augustus Pugin's former home overlooking Ramsgate's Royal Harbour 01628 825925

W Sat 6 June, 3.30pm

Shoresearch Plumpudding

Survey Plumpudding's mussel beds
Meet: next to the Minnis Restaurant (KWT)

O Sun 7 June

Great Bucket and Spade Run

Historic vehicle run from Faversham to Palm Bay 01843 298969

WF Sun 7 June, 6.30pm (1½hrs)

Rocky Shore Discovery Tour!

Meander across the rockpools with marine ecologist Ian Humphreyes, looking for our shore life
Meet: bottom of slope at Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

C Fri 12 June, 6.30pm (2½hrs)

Sunset Cycle! (Start of Bike Week)

Gentle evening coastal cycle into the setting sun – from Margate Main Sands to Minnis Bay and back
Meet: by Droit House, Margate Harbour
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/Thanet Cycle Forum)

G Fri 12 June, 7pm (2hrs)

Orchids and other wild flowers

PBCP (KWT)

O 20-21 June

Margate's Big Event

01843 577167

O 20-24 Broadstairs

Dickens Festival

01843 861827

GF Sat 20 and Sun 21 June, 10am (6hrs)

This is Your Wildlife!

Short guided walks to see impressive wildlife in the National Nature Reserve, plus family activities PBCP (KWT)

G Sun 28 June, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Stone Bay

Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils
Meet: entrance to harbour office, Broadstairs Harbour
Booking Essential: www.thanetcoast.org.uk



Kayaking at Joss Bay Surf School

Seashore Safari



● Sun 14 June

Margate Annual Raft Race

Starting from Nayland Rock Hotel
Margate Carnival Group 01843 293733

● 27/28 June

Beach Volleyball Competition

01843 577367

● Every Tues in July, 7.30pm

Ramsgate Costumed Walks

01843 580832

● Wed 1 July, 9am (45mins)

Short Orchid and Wild Flower Walk

PBCP (KWT)

FW Sat 4 July, 2pm (2hrs)

Darwin200 Seashore Safari – Reculver

See 29 May

● Sun 5 July

Sea Sunday – Viking Bay Broadstairs

01843 861253

● Sun 5 July Race for Life – Palm Bay

FW Sun 12 July

Celebration of Reculver Country Park

Join in a day of events, walks and fun to celebrate
200 years of the moving of Reculver village
Meet: Reculver country Park (KWT)

● Sat 18 July

Thanet Pride Festival

Marine Drive and Marine Gardens

● 24-26 July

Sound Island Music Festival

Quex Park, Birchington

● 24-26 July

Big Sky Jazz Festival

Margate Town Partnership 01843 297350

M Wed 22 July, 7.30pm (2hrs)

The Nature of the Thanet Coast

Illustrated talk about the nature and work of the
Thanet Coast Project by Tony Child £3
Meet: Trinity Centre, Cliftonville
(Thanet Countryside Trust)

W Thurs 23 July, 6pm

Shoresearch Westgate/Birchington

Meet: junction of Sea Rd and Westleigh Rd
Westgate
(KWT)

W Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals (4hrs)

Wade onboard a 'Wildlife Sailing' excursion
from Minnis Bay.

The trip includes a visit onto an offshore
sandbank.

Minnis Bay, Birchington (£22.50)

Sun 26 July 7.45am

Mon 27 July, 8.30am

Tue 28 July, 9.15am

Wed 29 July, 10am

Book and pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

FW Seashore Safaris (2hrs)

Join the hunt for Thanet's intriguing sealife, with
experts on hand to help identify your finds!
(TCP)

Mon 27 Jul, 10.30am – St Mildred's Bay Meet:
by Pav's Cafe

Tues 28 Jul, 10.30am – Ramsgate's East Cliff
Meet: by the Sea Garden

Wed 29 Jul, 11am – Joss Bay Meet: at the
bottom of slope to beach

Thurs 30 Jul, 1pm – Minnis Bay Meet: by the
tidal pool, near the chalk cliff

Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk

G Thurs 30 July

Rock Doc Walk – Kingsgate

See 19 April

W Fri 31 July, 7pm (2hrs)

Sandwich Terns at Sandwich Bay

See large flocks of terns and other migratory birds
PCBC (KWT)

C Fri 31 July, 10am (4hrs, 8 miles return)

Edge of the World Cycle Tour

Gentle cycle viewing the chalk coastline around
Kingsgate and North Foreland to Broadstairs'
Viking Bay

Meet: outside Droit House, Margate Harbour

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

● 31Jul -2 Aug

Viking Extravaganza

Ramsgate 07877 497711

Edge of the World Cycle Tour



COASTAL DRIFT...

Dive into the Ocean!

Ocean on Google Earth now brings the ocean to life in homes and classrooms around the world. International Union for Conservation of Nature has helped add a new Google earth layer, with over **4,500 marine protected areas (MPAs)** from the Great Barrier Reef, Galapagos – to the Thanet Coast! Anybody can explore the marine natural beauty, learn the threats they face and what they can do to help.



Cheryl Pendry

Offshore Reserves

Eight new UK MPAs have been identified for the OSPAR MPA network, which now total 63, including the first five offshore sites. www.jncc.gov.uk

Marine Bill

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill has been going through Parliament on course to set up a new Marine Management Organisation, streamline the existing marine licensing system, reform fisheries management, provide a framework for establishing marine conservation zones (MCZ), and improve access all around the English coast. services.parliament.uk/bills/

Not beating around the Bush - the largest MPA

George Bush left US office establishing 'the largest area of protected sea in the world' around its Pacific islands, banning commercial fishing and mining in 500,000 sq km of sea and sea floor including the Mariana Trench - the deepest area of ocean on the planet. Environmental activists add caution that without curbing climate change, other measures may be meaningless. news.bbc.co.uk/

Eastern English Channel MCZ

A new initiative to introduce MCZs around the Eastern English channel to the greater Thames estuary has been set up in the County Council offices at Maidstone to help people identify the network of MCZs within our area.



Virtual MPA Centre

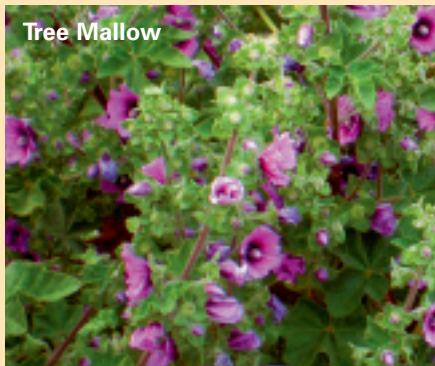
A virtual UK MPA Centre has been set up for practitioners – acting as a resource for information and news for everything on the UK's MPA seafloor! www.ukmpas.org/

Coastal-growing plants are exposed to the elements. Salt can cause leaf burn and defoliation and builds up in the soil, whilst the wind can cause physical damage to a plant's limbs and stunt its growth. The chalky soil does not hold water well. So our successful plants are those which have adapted and modified themselves to drought conditions and the harsh environment.

Some plants in Ramsgate's Sea Garden, such as **Sea Beet** and **Sea Purslane**, have adapted to these dry weather conditions by developing thick waxy leaves. Others have small narrowly divided or curled leaves to reduce water loss, like the aromatic **Fennel**, with its distinctive aniseed fragrance. The silvery appearance of plants with hairy leaves is often a good indication that the plant may be suitable for coastal conditions. These include **Wormwood** and **Silver Ragwort**. Their leaves keep in moisture and lessen the impact of salt damage. Using suitable native wild plants can help attract the insects, butterflies and birds which enjoy a coastal environment.

On the cliffs you can see rare native plants which thrive in these harsh

Tree Mallow

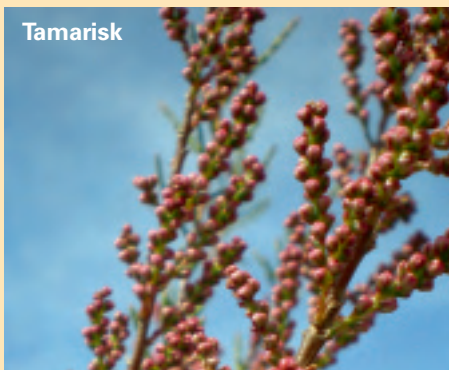


Sea Beat the

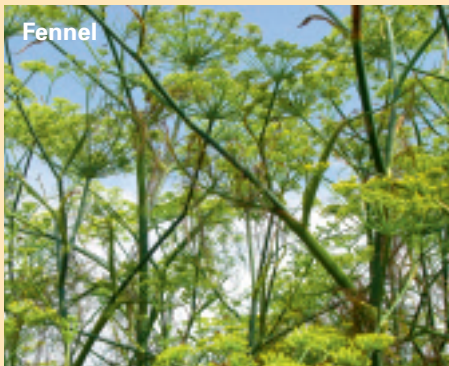
Planting our gardens with drought tolerant coastal plants that are suitable for our soil conditions, can help to save water and attract wildlife.

The demand for water continues to rise and we now use 70% more than 30 years ago, with over 50% used for watering the garden in the summer. The use of water butts and watering during the cooler evening time will help, but there's an easier way and that's to reduce the need for using water in the garden by planting the most appropriate drought-tolerant plants!

Tamarisk



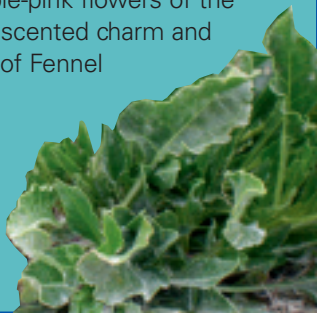
Fennel



he Drought

There's a range of plants that can survive drier conditions and live in our coastal environment without regular watering. These include many of the coastal and chalk-loving plants from the beautiful purple-pink flowers of the Mallows, the scented charm and the elegance of Fennel to the prickly blue-green tone of Sea Hollies.

Sea Beet



Hoary Stock



Wormwood



conditions – **Hoary Stock** with its mauve wallflowers; **Rock Sea Lavender's** tiny violet flower sprays; or **Rock Samphire**.

Specialised **lichens** have adapted to life on the cliff face, giving the chalk a blacky-brown tinge!

Plants with roots that reach deep into the soil for water, such as the tall **Tree Mallows** with their woody stems and attractive mauve flowers, are ideal in seaside conditions. Other garden plants from around the world, such as the **Tamarisk** and the **Yucca** can also thrive in coastal locations.

The Sea Garden

The Sea Garden was designed in conjunction with Ramsgate artist Ruth Cutler and created with help from local volunteers, in partnership between the Thanet Coast Project, Thanet Council and Southern Water.

Volunteer tasks are planned for 4 April, 23 May and 15 August – see event listings.



Catching up with

COASTAL DRIFT...

Coastal Integration – ICZM

Defra has published 'A strategy for promoting an integrated approach to the management of coastal areas in England' (Integrated Coastal Zone Management or 'ICZM') with material of interest to all those involved in coastal issues, including people who live in coastal communities.

www.defra.gov.uk/marine/environment/iczm.htm

Kent ICZM Action Plan

Kent's Coastal Network is calling for greater integrated working around the coast, and are currently asking for your views on a variety of coastal themes to improve sustainable management of our shores.

www.coastalkent.net/

Crab losses



Wood, wood everywhere



Wood you believe it!

The coastline from Ramsgate to Broadstairs was strewn with timber – after 1500 metric tonnes of sawn timber washed ashore during storm winds in January 2009. The cargo was lost from the deck of Russian vessel 'Sinegorsk' 14 nautical miles south of Newhaven just a few days before. The authorities cleaned the beaches quickly – with help from visitors to the beach! All wood collected had to be declared to the Receiver of Wrecks at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency within 28 days.

Crabbing the headlines!

Just three years after a similar crash in their population, the Velvet Swimming Crab (*Necora puber*) suffered another devastating loss after the cold spell in January 2009. Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science took Thanet samples to investigate the cause on behalf of the Environment Agency.

Whale of a find!

A strange substance was recently found on Broadstairs beach. Could this be a light yellow type of ambergris? This crumbly bright yellow – yet strong-smelling substance that made dogs very excitable! Ambergris is a solid, waxy, flammable substance of a dull grey or blackish color produced in the digestive system of sperm whales. Ambergris has a peculiar sweet, earthy odor that was used as a fixative in perfumery.



Broadstairs' harbour master, Andy Wood – with ambergris?

Whale of a time!

Congratulations to the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) for a memorable 25th silver jubilee. The UK charity is dedicated to caring for our seas, shores and wildlife, and has many groundbreaking campaigns for clean seas and beaches, sustainable fisheries, and protection of marine life. We're proud to help support their work. You can volunteer locally too – see the beach clean events, or find out more at the film night – see listings 26 May.

Broadstairs Water

Water quality testing at Broadstairs will be one of only 10 places pioneering a new way of reporting on water quality in 2009. There will be new daily testings and predictions, to help inform bathers of the likely water quality. This trial initiative will bring reporting in line with European directives that are due to be in place by 2015.

Silent Seas

The MCS report Silent Seas outlines the problems faced by the seas today and the possibility of 'silent seas' if changes are not made to our current treatment of the seas and oceans www.mcsuk.org/

Kite Surfing Review

Revised guidelines have been agreed by local users and nature conservationists to help reduce the impact of kite surfing within the National Nature Reserve. The activity is only allowed under exceptional circumstances – otherwise kite surfers should use designated sites around the area. More information under the wind-powered activity code at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Kitesurfing at Pegwell Bay





Check out pages 7 to 10 for this spring's Thanet Coast Project events

thanet coast



Thanet Coast Project
c/o TDC, PO Box 9
Cecil Street, Margate CT9 1XZ
01843 577672

thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk
 www.thanetcoast.org.uk

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, Naomi Biggs and Cheryl Pendry.



LOTTERY FUNDED

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.

Created by www.angeldesign.org.uk