



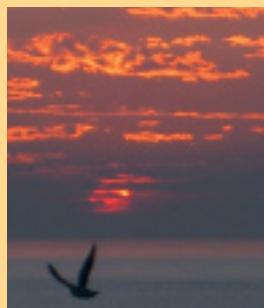
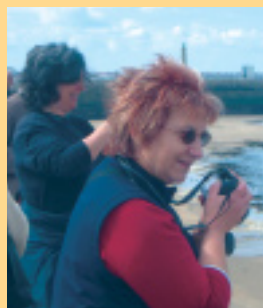
autumn/winter 2007/08



Coast on Camera

## So much to Sea... and do...

Try the SeaART2007 Workshops page 3, Kent's first Coastal Week events page 14, or find something you like amongst the coastal listings pages 7 to 10.





Events listings – pages 7-10



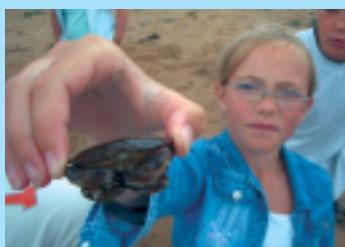
Thanet Coast Big Draw



Seashore Safari



World Food Day – see page 12



Seashore Safari

# Coastal Project's Log

**Y**ou will find a variety of things to do in this newsletter from the summer's Seashore Safaris and SeaART (pages 3 and 8), to the autumn's BeachWatch (page 11) and Kent Coastal Week (page 14), through the winter months, until our spring beach cleans! So do take advantage of these coastal events or help us to create new ones that you would like to see!

One question that we are asked, is 'who are the Thanet Coast Project and who do you work for?'. Well, see page 6 for details of the set-up that was recently approved by our coastal stakeholders during the revision of the Management Scheme.

The North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme (2007-12) has many new actions to be tackled over the next few years. The partners and Thanet Coast Project are here to help local people to achieve these. One new proposal for a Natural Zone is outlined on page 12.

Pride of Thanet is our own Education officer, Naomi Biggs, who brilliantly made it into the national finals for Council Worker of the Year.

We would also like to thank Thanet District Council for their renewed endorsement and fantastic support of the Thanet Coast Project's work. Without this support and sponsorship from partners, all this work along the North East Kent coast would not be able to go ahead at such a pace.

**Tony Child**

## Coastal contents

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- 4-5** Community Action
- 6** Coastal Drift – Management Set-up
- 7-10** Coastal Events – Listings
- 11&14** Shorelines – local news
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# COMING UP...

## Marine Week 2007 Seashore Safaris (July and August)

Great family 'rock-pooling' exploration to discover, observe and record what lurks between the tides on our beaches this summer. All last two hours and are run in conjunction with the Kent Wildlife Trust. Places can be booked online. Donations welcome.

For times see events listings



## SeaART2007

**4 to 27 August, 10am-5pm**

Spearheading the start of Marine Week will be three weeks of our biggest exhibitions and children's workshops yet! See page 8. Contemporary artwork by 80 local artists will be showing at Margate's Community Pharmacy Gallery and Old Town Gallery. This year, they are also joined by complementary photoSeaART exhibitions in Broadstairs harbour and Cliftonville library. All works have the sea and coast as the inspirational theme running through them. SeaART2007 is supported by the Safer Stronger Communities Fund in Margate and Thanet District Council.

[www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)

## Octopus's Garden!

Ramsgate artist Ruth Cutler and local volunteers have been busy designing a new 'Sea Garden', below, on waste ground north of the promenade car park at Ramsgate's Eastcliff. It is part of the SeaART2007 with thanks to the support of Southern Water.



# Thanet Coastal Wardens Log

Coastal Wardens aboard the Sandwich River Bus



## 2007/08

### Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme

- Induction and Activity Survey (17 Nov)
- Shore Life Identification (KWT, Mar 2008)

### Optional modules

- Highly Protected Marine Areas for our seas (30 Aug)
- Shoresearch – 'Dumpton Dinosaur' (KWT, 1 Sept)
- Litter Champions Training (CKC, 4 Sept)
- Maritime Coastguard rescue demo (MCA, Sept/Oct)
- Shoresearch – Walpole Tidal Pool (31 Oct)
- Moonlighting Inns of Thanet (6 Nov)
- Coastal Bird Identification (SBBOT, 18 Nov)
- 3rd Anniversary Event (Nov)

It's official; the Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme has been joined by a second project of its kind in Kent, as Canterbury City Council launched their volunteer scheme in June. Tom Hawkins, foreshore officer, will be coordinating the scheme along Canterbury's 14 miles of coastline. To find out more, call 01227 266719.

In return for all their hard work, the Coastal Wardens enjoyed a treat aboard the Sandwich River Bus to experience seal watching on the River Stour. Everyone on board was pleased to catch a glimpse of common seals and were surprised to learn just how rich the wildlife and history is along the river into Pegwell Bay.

With a timetable full of training opportunities, sponsored by Cummins Global Power Generation, there's plenty for Wardens to learn about. This autumn, we link up with the Clean Kent Campaign to give the wardens chance to become a 'Beach Litter Champion'. John Graham is back by popular demand in November to share some more of Thanet's smuggling history; the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust will be helping volunteers to know the difference between a Tern and a Turnstone, and there will even be a chance to abseil with the Coastguards as they run through a cliff rescue exercise at Botany Bay.

To find out more about the coastal warden scheme, or if you would like to volunteer yourself please call our Education Officer on 01843 577409.



# COMMUNITY ACTION

Cummins Beach Clean

## Action in the Community

Look out for some positive community action as Thanet's *Youth Offending Team* and *Skillnet* group take to the shores with litter pickers, to help tidy up our beaches. *Aveda*, *Pfizer*, *Kent County Council*, *Cummins* and *Kids* have set the standard this year by clearing nearly 300 bags between them!



## LGA Award



The results for the Council Worker of the Year awards, sponsored by the Local Government Channel, are in, with Naomi Biggs taking second place in the leadership category. Nominated for the award for engaging so many people from across Kent in Thanet's unique coastline, Naomi is delighted to be one of only four people in the country short listed for the award: "Tony and I have been overwhelmed with the level of support from the public and our project partners and with the great press

coverage that the nomination has received. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has voted for me. The Thanet Coast Project really is a unique way of working for local government and it's wonderful to see Thanet District Council recognised for this at such a prestigious event."

Willie McKnight



## Shellfish research projects

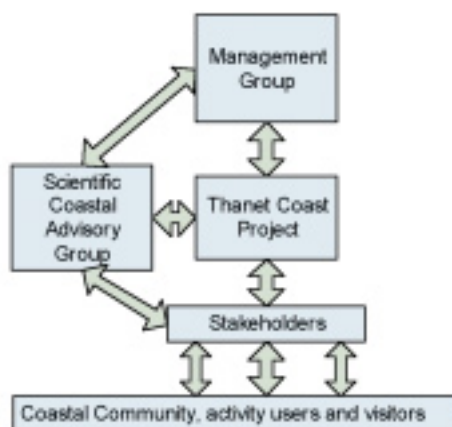
There has been increased volunteer activity around Thanet's shores as one enthusiastic coastal warden is getting his teeth into two science research projects. Willie McKnight is the brave volunteer taking on a shellfish harvesting project and a Pacific oyster recording study with support from members of the North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group.

# COASTAL DRIFT

## North East Kent European marine sites management set-up

**T**he six-year Management Scheme (2007-12) is the responsibility of the Management Group and aims to maintain the wildlife and habitats as an internationally important asset whilst ensuring the diverse human activities complement rather than threaten this interest. This group approved the use of 'stakeholder dialogue' workshops to involve local people in the decision-making, an approach that had successfully produced the original Scheme (2001-06). The new scheme also integrated wider ecosystem principles.

During the workshops, stakeholders endorsed the current management set-up, which gives coastal representatives a say in the management of their coast. They also approved the work of the Thanet Coast Project as the main initiative to help raise awareness of the importance of the sites and to work with local people to help safeguard coastal wildlife. For further information, go to [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)



The **Management Group** (MG) is composed of the ten 'relevant authorities' that have statutory controls within the sites. They meet twice a year to review management progress in implementing the six-year Management Scheme. Natural England and Thanet District Council (the employing authority) jointly line manage the **Thanet Coast Project** (TCP), a non-profit initiative supported by the partnership, sponsors and grants. It currently has two members of staff (manager and an education officer) and many active volunteers (see pages 2-3). TCP raises awareness and works with local people to help safeguard coastal wildlife, reporting twice a year to the MG. The **Coastal Advisory Group** meets two to four times a year to discuss management and research issues. The **Stakeholder Group** is formed from representatives of a varied cross section of coastal interests and community groups from North East Kent, and they meet twice a year.



Velvet Swimming Crab

# COASTAL EVENTS

## Guided Walks, Volunteering or Family Events

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

**Book:** For TCP events, you can use the 'on-line' 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 on-line for you.

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

**What else?** Look at the variety of events on the new tourism website **www.visitthanet.co.uk/** or children's events at **www.engage.eu.com** Regular nature events also take place at the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory **www.sbbot.co.uk**

## 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

## Event organisers

- TCP** Thanet Coast Project –  
01843 577672
- KWT** Kent Wildlife Trust –  
01622 662012
- PBCP** Pegwell Bay Country  
Park – 07889 822412 or  
07747 608292

**O** All Wed in August, 10am (2hrs)  
**Surf & Rescue**  
£10 / £12 (8-16s). Joss Bay 07812 991195. (Surf School)

**W** Thur 2 Aug, 7.15am (4hrs)  
**Seal Trip**  
£20 'Wildlife Sailing' – seals & sandbank.  
Minnis Bay, Birchington  
Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**WF** Thur 2 Aug, 9am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – Minnis Bay, Birchington  
'Rockpooling' exploration! See page 3  
Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP/KWT)

**WF** Fri 3 Aug, 9am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs  
See 2 Aug

**A** Sat 4 to Mon 27 Aug, 10am – 5pm  
**SeaART2007** and **SeaART Workshops**  
See pages 3 and 8

**G** Sat 4 Aug, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk** – Walpole, Cliftonville  
Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Meet by Walpole Bay Hotel  
Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**WF** Sat 4 & Sun 5 Aug, 10.30am (4hrs)  
**Beach Rambles**  
Reculver Visitor Centre (KWT)

**O** 4 - 5 Aug  
**Margate Carnival Weekend**

# SeaART2007 Workshops - August

Day	Morning	Morning
Sat 4	<b>SeaART2007 exhibition starts. See page 3.</b>	
Mon 6	BeachART 10am (3hrs)	Coast on Camera 12pm (2hrs)
Wed 8	Introduction to Mosaics 10.30am (3hrs, 14 yrs & over)	
Thurs 9	Metal Sculpture 10am (6hrs)	
	Coast on Camera 12pm (2hrs)	BeachART 4pm (3hrs)
Fri 10	Marine Mosaics 10.30am (3hrs, 14 yrs & over)	
Tues 14	Metal Sculpture 10am (6hrs)	
Wed 15	Marine Mosaics 10.30am (3hrs, 14 – 24 yrs)	Marine Mosaics 2pm (3hrs, under 14s)
Thurs 16	Metal Sculpture 10am (6hrs)	
Fri 17	Marine Mosaics 10.30am (3hrs, 14 yrs & over)	Marine Mosaics 2pm (3hrs, under 14s)
Mon 20	BeachART 10am (3hrs)	Coast on Camera 2pm (2hrs)
Tues 21	Metal Sculpture, 10am (3hrs)	
Wed 22	Marine Mosaics 10.30am (3hrs, 14 – 24 yrs)	
Thurs 23	Metal Sculpture 10am (3hrs)	
	Coast on Camera 10am (2hrs)	BeachART 1pm (3hrs)
Fri 24	Marine Mosaics 10.30am (3hrs, 14 yrs & over)	
Mon 27	<b>Last day of SeaART2007 exhibitions</b>	

**BeachART workshops** will be using the sandy beach to help create spectacular innovations. **Coast on Camera** walks to take your own coastal observations. Both lead by artist Ruth Cutler. ***Ideal for the whole family, under 12s must be accompanied by an adult.***

**Metal Workshops** with sculptor, Ian De Silva, to create a unique metal seascape sculpture. ***14 to 24 year olds.***

**Marine Mosaics** Introduction with expert Martin Cheek, and workshops with artist Christine Pettet, to re-create coastline features in colourful mosaics, including a large community artwork. ***Weds: 14 – 24 year olds (except 8 Aug); Fridays: 14 years and over; Afternoon sessions (15 & 17 Aug): under 14 years.***

For all workshops, meet at the Community Pharmacy Gallery, Margate. Equipment is provided. The Safer Stronger Communities Fund has supported these workshops, so all places are free.

Workshop places **must be booked** online at **[www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)** or telephone **01843 577672**





**WF** Mon 6 Aug, 11am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – St Mildred's Bay, Westgate  
See 2 Aug

**WF** Tues 7 Aug, 12pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – Joss Bay, Broadstairs  
See 2 Aug

**O** Tues in Aug, 7pm  
**Viking Bay Beach Volleyball**

**WF** Wed 8 Aug, 1.30pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – Botany Bay, Broadstairs  
See 2 Aug

**G** Wed 8 Aug, 6pm (2hrs)  
**Behind the Scenes**  
Walk led by a reserve warden. PBCP (KWT)

**WF** Thur 9 Aug, 3pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – Stone Bay, Broadstairs  
See 2 Aug

**W** Thur 9 Aug, 1.45pm (4hrs)  
**Seal Trip**  
See 2 Aug

**O** 10 – 17 Aug  
**Broadstairs Folk Week**

**WF** Fri 10 Aug, 4.30pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – East Cliff, Ramsgate  
See 2 Aug

**WF** Sat 11 Aug, 5pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – West Bay, Westgate  
See 2 Aug

**O** Sat 11 – Fri 17 Aug  
**Ramsgate Regatta Week**

**WG** Sun 12 Aug, 6pm (2hrs)  
**Seaweeds and their Secrets!**  
Discover seaweeds with Dr Ian Tittle from the Natural History Museum. Botany Bay – from Beach Kiosk,  
Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**WF** Sun 12 Aug, 10am (2hrs)  
**Mini Beast Safari**  
PBCP (KWT)

**WF** Mon 13 & Tues 14 Aug  
**Marine Events**  
Arts, crafts and games. Tyland Barn (KWT)

**W** Thur 16 Aug, 7.15am (4hrs)  
**Seal Trip**  
See 2 Aug

**O** Sat 18 Aug, 12pm (5hrs)  
**Cliftonville Olympics Fun Day**

**G** Sat 18 Aug, 11am (2hrs)  
**Summer Rock Doc Walk** – Walpole  
See 4 Aug

**WF** Sat 18 & Sun 19 Aug, 10.30am (4hrs)  
**Beach Rambles** – seashore detective  
Reculver (KWT)

**WF** Mon 20 Aug, 10.30am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari** – Herne Bay (KWT)

**G** Tues 21 Aug, 10am (6hrs)  
**Coastal Ramble**  
Herne Bay to Reculver (KWT)

**O** Wed 22 Aug,  
**Broadstairs Water Gala Day**

**O** Sun 26 Aug  
**Trawler Race & Boat Jumble**  
01843 594223 (Thanet Fisherman's Assoc)

**WF** Sat 26 & Sun 27 Aug, 10am (6hrs)  
**Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory**  
Open Weekend, £1= at Tollgate Family fun.  
[www.sbbot.co.uk](http://www.sbbot.co.uk)

**W** Fri 31 Aug, 6.45am (4hrs)  
**Seal Trip**  
See 2 Aug

**W** Sat 1 Sept, 9am (2-3hrs)  
**Shoresearch – "Dumpton Dinosaur"**  
Shorelife on shingle spit north of Ramsgate's main sands. Meet at north of Eastcliff car park (KWT/TCP)

**G** Sun 2 Sept, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk** – Walpole  
See 4 Aug

**O** 2 Sept  
**Addington Street Fair**

**O** 2 Sept  
**Annual Model Ship Rally**

**M** Thur 6 Sept  
**Bass Angling Fishing**  
See p15

**V** Sat 8 Sept, 10am (4hrs)  
**Sandwich Bay Beachwatch**  
See p11. Meet at Estate Toll Gate (KWT/TCP)

**OG** Sun 9 Sept, 11am (6hrs)  
**Reculver Heritage Towers Open Day**

**FW** Sun 9 Sept, 2pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Ramble** with Chas Matthews PBCP

**G** Thurs 13 Sept, 5.30pm (1hr)  
**Beach Scavenger Hunt** – Margate Sands  
Meet at Margate Visitor Centre (12-13 The Parade) (TCP)

**V** Sat 15 Sept, 10am (3hrs)  
**Pegwell Bay Beachwatch**  
See p11. Meet on beach below former hoverport access road (TCP)

**V** Sat 15 Sept, 10am (1½hrs)  
**St Mildreds Bay Beachwatch**  
See p11. Meet next to Pav's Café (Bay Association)

**V** Sat 15 Sept, 10am (2hrs)  
**Margate Beachwatch**  
See p11. Meet next to the beach café  
01843 295481 (Local MCS)

**V** Sun 16 Sept, 10am (3hrs)  
**Plumpudding Beachwatch**  
See p11. Meet outside Minnis Restaurant,  
Birchington  
(TCP)

**V** Sun 16 Sept, 10am (2hrs)  
**Walpole Bay Beachwatch**  
 See p11. Meet close to the Tidal Pool  
 01843 295481 (Local MCS Volunteers)

**O** Sun 16 Sept  
**Margate Day celebrations**  
 01843 221704 (Charter Trustees)

**V** Sat 22 Sept, 2pm (3hrs)  
**Pegwell Bay Beach Clean**  
 See p11. Meet on beach below former hoverport  
 access road (TCP)

**O** Sat 22 & Sun 23 Sept  
**Big Sky Kite Festival**

**V** Sun 23 Sept, 2pm (3hrs)  
**Coldharbour Beach Clean**  
 See p11. Meet outside The Minnis Restaurant,  
 Birchington (TCP)

**O** Tues 25 Sept, 10:15 departure (£39)  
**The Waverley** – from Margate  
 Steamer excursion up the Thames and return by  
 coach (20:45pm). Book:  
[www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk)

**V** Sat 29 Sept, 9.30am (2hrs)  
**Autumn Migrant Bird Watch**  
 PBCP (KWT)

**V** Sun 14 Oct, 10am (2hrs)  
**Autumn Migrant Bird Watch**  
 PBCP (KWT)

**O** Tues 16 Oct, 11am (4½ hrs)  
**World Food Day**  
 See page 13. 07871 156204 (Thanet Fairtrade)

20-28 Oct  
**Kent Coastal Week**  
 See page 14

**AF** Sat 20 Oct, 10am (3hrs)  
**Thanet Coast's 4th Big Draw**  
 Create this year's largest Marine Sand Sculpture!  
 Bring friends, family and spades! Beach, Broadstairs  
 Viking Bay. Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**WF** Sun 21 October, 2pm (1½hrs)  
**Rocky Shore Discovery Tour!**  
 Meander across the rocks & pools with marine  
 ecologist, Ian Humphreys.  
 Meet by Walpole Bay Tidal Pool, Cliftonville.  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**WM** Mon 22 Oct  
**Shoresearch Training Day**  
 £20, Reculver Book: KWT

**G** Thurs 25 Oct, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk** – Pegwell Bay  
 See 4 Aug. Meet at the Viking Ship 'Hugin'  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**M** Tues 30 Oct, 7pm (2hr)  
**N.E. Kent Coast Stakeholder Workshop**  
 Identifying ways forward for a Natural Zone. See  
 page 12. Walpole Bay Hotel. Book: phone TCP

**M** Tues 6 Nov, 7pm (1hr)  
**Moonlighting Inns of Thanet**  
 Talk by smuggling expert, John Graham. Walpole Bay  
 Hotel, Cliftonville. £2 per person (TCWS free).  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**V** Sat 10 Nov, 10am (4hrs)  
**Coppicing at Stonelees**  
 Meet by car park, PBCP (KWT)

**G** Sat 17 Nov, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk** – Minnis Bay, Birchington  
 See 4 Aug. Meet by Tidal Pool

**WG** Sun 25 Nov, 9am (2hrs)  
**Winter Wildfowl & Waders**  
 Bird-watch as the tide comes in. PBCP (KWT)

**G** Sun 2 Dec, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk** – Dumpton Gap  
 See 4 Aug. Meet at bottom of the slope

## 2008

**V** Sat 12 Jan, 10am (4hrs)  
**Conservation tasks**  
 PBCP (KWT)

**G** Sun 20 Jan, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk** – Walpole Bay  
 See 2 Aug. Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)(TCP)

**WG** Sat 26 Jan, 10am (2hrs)  
**Winter Wildfowl & Wader Walk**  
 See 25 Nov. PBCP (KWT)

**V** Sat 9 Feb, 10am (3hrs)  
**Conservation tasks**  
 PBCP (KWT)

**G** Sat 16 Feb, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk** – Kingsgate  
 See 20 Jan. Meet outside Fayrency Hotel

**GF** Wed 20 Feb, 12.30pm (2-3hrs)  
**Seaside Stomp**  
 Brisk walk from Ramsgate to Broadstairs and back.  
 Meet by the Needle (o/s Casino, Ramsgate Harbour)  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**O** Sat 1 & Sun 2 March  
**Quad Bike Beach Racing**  
[www.margatetownpartnership.org.uk](http://www.margatetownpartnership.org.uk)

**G** Sun 2 Mar, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk** – Minnis Bay, Birchington  
 See 20 Jan. Meet by tidal pool

**V** Sat 8 Mar, 10am (3hrs)  
**Sandwich Bay Beach Clean**  
 Meet at Sandwich Bay Estate Toll Gate. (PBCP, KWT)

**V** Sat 29 Mar, 10am (3hrs)  
**Plum pudding – Spring Beach Clean**  
 Meet outside The Minnis Restaurant, Birchington. Book:  
[www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**V** Sun 30 Mar, 10am (3hrs)  
**Pegwell Bay – Spring Beach Clean**  
 Meet on beach below former hoverport access road  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

# shore lines

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE THANET COAST

## Autumn Beach Cleans – your chance to join in the action!

**Sandwich Bay** – Sat 8 Sept

**Pegwell Beachwatch** – Sat 15 Sept

**St Mildred's Bay Beachwatch** – Sat 15 Sept

**Margate Main Sands Beachwatch** – Sat 15 Sept

**Plumpudding Beachwatch** – Sun 16 Sept

**Walpole Bay Beachwatch** – Sun 16 Sept

**Pegwell Beach Clean** – Sat 22 Sept

**Coldharbour Beach Clean** – Sun 23 Sept

*See the listings for details.*

The Thanet Coast Project is working with the Clean Kent Campaign

**www.cleankent.com** to run Beach Litter Champion training for volunteer coastal wardens (see page 4). These Beachwatch events link up with the Marine Conservation Society's campaign to record and monitor beach litter **www.mcsuk.org**



## Best beaches!



Thanet has been awarded seven Blue Flags, which is more than any other District in the UK. Blue Flag beaches have to comply with tough water quality guidelines and criteria such as providing public toilets, access for disabled visitors and first aid facilities. Minnis Bay has now held a Blue Flag for the last six years, and West Bay at Westgate for three. Other Blue Flag beaches are Margate Main Sands, Westbrook Bay, St Mildred's Bay and Stone Bay and Botany Bay in Broadstairs. Broadstairs scooped second place for the Guardian's best UK Seaside Towns during 2007. Other beaches in North East Kent with the blue flag accolade include Herne Bay and Tankerton.

## Tourism Greeters

Thanet has launched a new volunteer Greeter scheme where local people share their passion, knowledge and experiences of the area with visitors to improve their visit. Check out more on the new tourism website **www.visitthanet.co.uk/**

## Natural East Kent

Natural East Kent is a new initiative to support the sustainable regeneration of rural and coastal East Kent communities through the area's natural environment and heritage. The aim is to improve the quality of life for local communities and encourage green tourism in consultation with a range of local communities.

**www.nek.org.uk**



**I**t's a surprise to many people to learn that only 1% of the UK seas are included within existing 'Marine Protected Areas' (MPAs) and, even at these sites, commercial activities such as fishing, can still continue!

Only one MPA is fully protected from fishing and other damaging activities – at Lundy, in the Bristol Channel – a mere 0.001% of our seas. The Wildlife Trusts say "this level of protection would be unthinkable on land, and should be equally inexcusable for our seas!"

Better protected 'Marine Reserves' are recognised to be invaluable for wildlife in other countries, where they have been around for years. Scientists accept that there are long lasting and often rapid increases in abundance, diversity and productivity of marine life in these reserves. They also acknowledge that better protection will require adequate enforcement and public involvement to achieve the full range of benefits.

In the North East Kent European marine sites, there is some degree of protection, but local activities can still take place as long as these are not damaging to the long term future of the wildlife and habitat of the site. This is one of the principles of managing the site and for producing the set of 'Thanet Coastal Codes' with the help of local people that undertake those activities.

At the Management Scheme review in 2006, several stakeholders suggested setting up a 'natural zone' on part of the intertidal chalk reef. This would effectively be a no take

# Introducing – A

Is there a better way to protect the



## World Food Day

Consumers can make a real difference to the way our fish stocks are managed. By only choosing fish from healthy, responsibly managed sources, caught using methods which minimise damage to the marine environment and other species, you can help drive the market for sustainable seafood.

- Don't be afraid to ask your fishmonger or the supermarket where and how the fish you buy was caught
- Look at labelling for details of where the fish was caught
- Look out for labelling schemes such as the Marine Stewardship Council

# NATURAL ZONE

marine wildlife of our chalk coastline?



For more tips on how to buy from sustainable fish stocks, visit this year's World Food Day event where the Thanet Coast Project, supported by the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee, will be giving advice on how to choose eco-friendly fish. Run by Thanet's Fairtrade Initiative, World Food Day is a free public event on Tuesday 16 October between 11am and 3.30pm at the Winter Gardens, Margate.

For more information on the Marine Stewardship Council please visit its website at [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org)

zone or marine reserve, which would be free of extractive activities such as shellfish collecting and would have minimal human disturbances as reasonably possible.

The benefits of taking away many of the existing human pressures are that we will be able to see if our wildlife will benefit and bounce back to a healthier state. Shorelife, like our crabs and lobsters, may be able to grow much older and larger than currently observed. This could have greater benefits all round – with healthier wildlife with breeding capabilities that could ultimately help restock the surrounding seas.

Challenges surrounding the proposal include identifying an area, or areas, that is representative for our key habitats and species; whether it would work in our area, where there is such high public access and activity; and would it just put additional pressures on adjacent areas? The proposal will start with discussions with coastal wardens and stakeholders this year and then with the local community to assess whether the idea is feasible.

Rather than wait and see what the government will deliver in respect to the creation of more MPAs within the proposed Marine Bill, we have started the process to find a better ways to help the wildlife on our coast locally.

If you would like to comment on this proposal, or represent the interests of a coastal activity or local community groups at the next stakeholder workshop this autumn, then email

**[thanet.coast@thanet.org.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.org.uk)**  
or call **01843 577672**.



# shore lines

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE THANET COAST

## Kent's own Week of the Coast (20-28 Oct)

The Thanet Coast joins in new 'Kent Coastal Week' celebrations this autumn half term. The week will involve many organisations and is coordinated by Kent County Council [www.coastalkent.net/](http://www.coastalkent.net/)  
See our event listings, and book online at [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)

## Summer cruising!

Two more coastal excursions will be available from Ramsgate harbour this summer. Sea Searchers' excursions now include seal, bird watching, angling and coastal leisure trips to Broadstairs harbour [www.thebestof.co.uk/ramsgate](http://www.thebestof.co.uk/ramsgate)  
(Tel: 07837 562076)

The new Horizon Sea Safaris will include Seal Encounters to the infamous Goodwin Sands, a Powerboat Experience, Beaches and Bays and Evening Excursions  
[www.horizonseasafaris.co.uk](http://www.horizonseasafaris.co.uk) (Tel: 07931 744788)

## Under the boardwalk

Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate all have new boardwalks allowing better access for all – especially for wheelchairs and elderly – onto the main sands, or across the bay in the case of Broadstairs.

## Change of Harbour Masters

The harbours at Margate and Broadstairs are now the responsibility of Thanet District Council's Foreshore Manager (01843 577275). The Margate Renewal Partnership is currently investigating potential new uses for Margate Harbour. The complementary new design for Turner Contemporary Gallery by Chipperfield Architects Ltd has also been unleashed and can be viewed online at [www.turnercontemporary.org/](http://www.turnercontemporary.org/)

## More protection

Stronger laws come into force on 21 August 2007 for the protection of European Protected Species, such as dolphins and turtles, and their habitats by making changes to the Habitats Regulations, and introducing new Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations. [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)



Images from **Coast on Camera** workshop – see page 8 for details of this year's SeaART2007 workshops

# COASTAL DRIFT

## Marine Bill!

Marine enthusiasts will be waiting to see if the Marine Bill proposals will be included in the Queen's speech this autumn so that we can improve upon sustainable management of all our marine resources. For more information see [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

## Access to the Seaside

We forget how lucky we are to live in an area that has so much public access to the coast. Defra plans to open up the coastline to the public in a new consultation paper (closes 11 Sept 2007) [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

## Your Global Footprint!

Measure your global footprint and impact on the environment with on-line carbon calculators such as [www.direct.gov.uk/ActOnCO2](http://www.direct.gov.uk/ActOnCO2), and get tips about how to reduce it. The 2006 UK Climate Change Programme is the UK's key strategy for its work on tackling climate change. In June, consultation closed for the comments on proposed Climate Change Bill [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) Organisations also run their own campaigns – such as WWF's One Planet Living campaign, but also check out their work on how to promote marine conservation with the Marine Bill, Biodiversity hotspots and their new film *A Fair Share of the Sea* [www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk)



## Coastal flood and erosion

The Environment Agency is to have a strengthened role to oversee management of all flood and erosion risk on the English coast, Defra announced on 22 June 2007. This includes leading, funding and overseeing coastal erosion works currently undertaken by local authorities. [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

There's still a chance to comment on the Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan that includes the North East Kent coast (closes 7 Sept 2007). These plans manage coastal flooding and erosion risks for the next 100 years. [www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk](http://www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk)

## Bass on the menu?

The Nayland Boat Sea Angling Society play host to speakers from the Bass Anglers Sportsfishing Society at Minnis Bay Sailing Club on Thursday 6 September. Anyone interested should contact Dave Harris on 01843 845743.

# Helping hands

**S**o far, 2007 has been a strange year, with the hottest April on record, followed by one of the wettest summers! Many of you have been amazed by the masses of jellyfish washed onto our shores. Could this be an indication of our impact on our seas? If, like us, you are keen to reduce your impact on the marine environment, here are a few ideas of how you can help...

## Follow a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, as far as you can (see page 15)

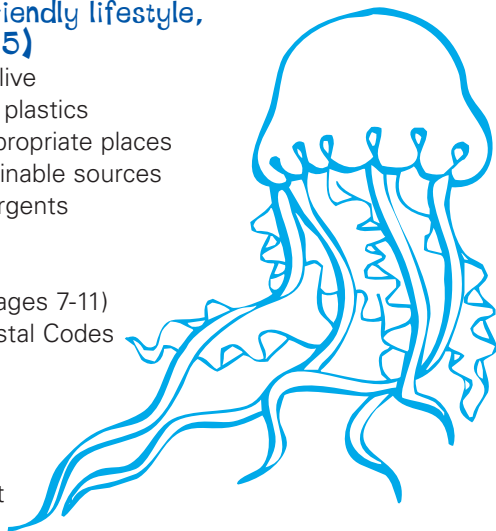
- don't buy curios that were once alive
- buy goods with less packaging or plastics
- recycle and dispose of litter in appropriate places
- buy locally caught fish from sustainable sources
- use environmentally friendly detergents

## Find out more!

- join coastal events or activities (pages 7-11)
- support the voluntary Thanet Coastal Codes

## Volunteer opportunities

- champion marine interests as a Coastal Warden (page 4), 'Stakeholder' (page 6) or take part in beach cleans (page 11)



## 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.



ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY



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.