



# thanet coast

# 14

spring/summer 2008

## BEACH PLAYSCHEME



New school holiday  
scheme for kids

Paul Keene - Avico Ltd

### Switch to 'on-line' newsletter!

Help us to save paper by opting to receive the twice-yearly Thanet Coast newsletter 'on-line'! Email your details and request to **thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk** and we will let you know when Thanet Coast 15 is available.



working with people  
for coastal wildlife

# Coastal Project's Log

**T**his year, the Thanet Coast Project has gone overboard and we have arranged more exciting events and activities than ever before.

Look out, as we launch a brand new beach playscheme (page 3) running over the school holidays for the next three years, to complement our programme of coastal activities.

Events include wildlife sailing excursions from Birchington to see the seals, and a host of other wildlife and coastal art activities (pages 7 to 10).

Learn more about how volunteers can help look after the coast (page 14) and how they receive free training to increase their marine knowledge through the Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme (page 4). Links with community groups and schools continue to flourish (page 5).

The future actions that were agreed by our coastal stakeholders during the revision of the coastal management are summarised on page 6. The draft marine bill is issued by Defra this spring, and goes through a detailed parliamentary scrutiny ([www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)).

You can read about one of the most sensitive coastal nature conservation areas in North East Kent – at the Sandwich and Pegwell National Nature Reserve – where internationally important wildlife lives side by side with all our coastal activities (pages 12 and 13).

**Tony Child, Manager**  
**Naomi Biggs, Education Officer**

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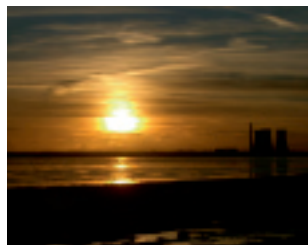
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# BeachPlay over school holidays

**T**he beach playscheme will provide eight weeks of activities for children and young people during school holidays, including two weeks at Easter. The events will include many old favourites such as Great Eggcase Hunts and Rockpool Rambles, but don't forget to look out for some new fun activities too. Supported by the Big Lottery Fund.



## Rockpool Rambles

7-11 April

## Great Eggcase Hunts and Sand Art

14-18 April

## Seashore Safaris and much more

From 23 July into August.  
*All activities last 2 hours, and take place at various locations.  
(See listings pages 7 to 10).*

The Thanet Coast Project can tailor events to the needs of young people and can provide free transport to events. So if you work with young people aged between five and 16 years, contact us on **thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk** or call now on **01843 577409** to find out more or to book an event for your community group.



TDC / Valerie Cameron

Coming up



## Thanet Coastal Wardens Log

**T**hanet's Coastal Wardens have sprung into action this year by helping the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory with a Turnstone disturbance survey and a coordinated coastal bird count. Both research projects were commissioned by Natural England to monitor the abundance of coastal birds and what level of disturbance occurs at their roost sites.

Training activities at the end of last year saw the volunteers going over the cliffs at Botany Bay with coastguards from Thanet, Herne Bay and Deal on a training exercise. The coastguards did a wonderful job, demonstrating how they execute small cliff rescues by abseiling down to the beach with volunteers in-tow, as well as explaining all the equipment used in rescues and finishing with a tour of the Cliftonville station.

2008 is shaping up to be a busy year, with double the usual amount of events for Coastal Wardens to help run and pass on their marine knowledge. Training events are listed in the box on this page. To find out more about the coastal warden scheme, or to volunteer yourself, please contact us on [thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk) or call our Education Officer on 01843 577409.

### Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme

- Induction and Activity Survey (3 May 2008)

#### Optional modules

- Shoresearch – North Foreland (KWT, 12 April)
- Fossil Extraction (Rock Doc, 11 May)
- National Nature Reserve Visit (KWT, 12 June)
- Sandwich River Bus Wildlife Trip (SBBOT, 21 June & 20 July)
- Advanced Shorelife Identification Day (KWT, 3 July)
- Marine Mammal Medic (BDMLR, 13 July) £40 subsidised

## Seaside session

**V**isitors to Thanet's Visitor Information Centres can now learn more about the coast, after staff joined the Thanet Coast Project team for a training session. As well as hearing how beach visitors can reduce their impact to our shores by following Thanet's Coastal Codes, the tourism team got stuck into a beach clean and took to the seas with Horizon Sea Safaris.





## TIRELESS WORKERS!

**C**ommunity groups and businesses have been taking to Thanet's shores ready to tackle the rubbish washed up over winter. The Ursuline College and Hartsdown schools' outdoor pursuits groups wheeled a tractor tyre off Pegwell Bay, but the Standard Chartered Bank team went one step further, using hacksaws to cut twisted fishing nets off Minnis Bay's railings!

### Coast on the curriculum

- Pupils from Spires Academy took to the beach with the Thanet Coast Project and environmental artist Ruth Cutler. The pupils spent the morning exploring Botany Bay's chalk features, and the afternoon using the coast as their inspiration for sand sculptures. Ruth works with the coastline to create mixed media art; to book a workshop call her on 01843 591081.
- Over 4,500 of Thanet's primary school children have learned about staying safe on the beach and protecting wildlife, in water safety lectures run by Thanet Leisure Force's head lifeguard Chris Betts, HM Coastguard Dave Melmoth and the Thanet Coast Project's Education Officer, Naomi Biggs.
- A collaboration between wildlife boat tour operator, Horizon Sea Safaris and the Thanet Coast Project is due to start with a boat trip to the River Stour and a beach walk for St Lawrence College Juniors. The project aims to give children an insight into the wildlife, history and environmental issues of their coast. To book a marine day with Horizon Sea Safaris, contact Jon Brooks on 07931 744788

# MANAGEMENT ACTION

**T**he **North East Kent European marine sites (NEKEMS) Management Scheme 2007 – 2012** aims to safeguard important marine and coastal wildlife and habitats, whilst allowing activities to take place without damaging these features. It includes specific actions to achieve the effective management of the marine sites and surrounding areas.

All the actions in the Action Plan are a direct outcome of coastal users' discussions, held during a series of three workshops in 2006, and these can be viewed online at **[www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)** The Action Plan includes a strong monitoring component, recognises the ever-changing coastal environment whilst allowing the management decisions to be made by local people. The action points are shared between the ten relevant authorities on the NEKEMS Management Group and the Thanet Coast Project.

Actions include the local implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan and completion of the Waste Water Treatment Works at Foreness Point. Fisheries related research will look into effects of shellfish harvesting and possible V-notching of lobster as a way of management. There is a proposal to extend the shore-based voluntary codes from Thanet along the coast to the Canterbury and Dover areas. New measures will explore management of 'off-road' vehicles, kite-propelled activities and integrating the activities within the Sandwich and Pegwell Bay area. Other research will look at the public pressure from increased activities such as rock-pooling, possible control of non-native species and collaborative work on producing fossil extraction guidelines.

The majority of the actions fall within the Thanet Coast Project's responsibility, and these have recently been agreed by the Management Group within a new Business Plan 2008-12. The main actions include the training of local volunteers or 'coastal champions', raising awareness and concern about wildlife through green tourism, reducing unintentional harm through encouraging responsible use of the coast, and engaging diverse local community groups.



*Safeguarding important marine and coastal wildlife and habitats, whilst allowing activities to take place without damaging these features.*



Visit Britain

# SPRING COASTAL 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.

## 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

### TCP – Thanet Coast Project

01843 577672

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

### KWT – Kent Wildlife Trust

01622 662012

[www.kentwildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.co.uk)

### PBCP – Pegwell Bay Country Park

07889 822412 or 07747 608292

### SBBOT – Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust

01304 617341

[www.sbbot.co.uk](http://www.sbbot.co.uk)

**Book** Booking essential

For TCP events, you can reserve your place online. See the “What’s On” section at [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://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.

**C** For cycle rides, please ensure your bike is roadworthy or the leader may refuse to take you! We also recommend that 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). 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

[www.visitthanet.co.uk/](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/) or

children’s events at

[www.engage.eu.com](http://www.engage.eu.com) or try these

excursion operators from

Ramsgate’s Royal Harbour:

- Capital Coastal Sailing 01843 865057 [www.capitalcoastal.com](http://www.capitalcoastal.com)
- Galleon Cruises (from £25) 07740 071015 [www.galleoncruises.com](http://www.galleoncruises.com)
- Horizon Sea Safaris (from £18) 07931 744788 [www.horizonseasafaris.co.uk](http://www.horizonseasafaris.co.uk)
- Sea Searcher Boat Trips (from £3) 07837 562076 [www.thebestof.co.uk/ramsgate](http://www.thebestof.co.uk/ramsgate) also
- Sandwich Riverbus, Sandwich Quay (from £6; £20 seals) 07958 376183 [www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk/](http://www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk/)

**V** Sat 5 April, 10am (3 hours) & 2pm (2 hours)  
**Ramsgate's Sea Garden Creation and Beach Clean**  
 See page 14. Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**WF Rockpool Rambles** (2 hours)  
 Come aboard Capt. Crabby's holiday rambles, suitable for the family (under 16s must be accompanied). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**Mon 7 April** 9am - West Bay, Westgate

Meet: next to the West Bay Café

**Tues 8 April** 9am - Ramsgate Main Sands

Meet: outside Maritime Museum in harbour

**Wed 9 April** 9am - Joss Bay, Broadstairs

Meet: bottom of the slope

**Thurs 10 April** 10am - Minnis Bay, Birchington

Meet: next to the tidal pool

**Fri 11 April** 10am - Margate Main Sands

Meet: next to the Nayland Shelter

**G** Thur 10 April, 11am (2 hours)

**Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay**

Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Meet: by Viking Ship 'Hugin', Cliffsend (TR351643). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**W** Sat 12 April, 8.30am (4 hours)

**Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals**

Wade onboard a 'Wildlife Sailing' excursion from Minnis Bay. This superb trip includes a visit onto an offshore sandbank. Minnis Bay, Birchington  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**W** Sat 12 April, 9.30am (3 hours)

**Shoresearch – North Foreland**

Survey of the chalk shore to the south of Joss Bay.  
 Meet: Joss Bay car park, Broadstairs (KWT/TCP)

**V** Sat 12 April, 10am (3 hours)

**Plumpudding Spring Beach Clean**

Along the refreshing sea wall beaches (TR272 393) towards Reculver. Meet: outside Minnis Restaurant, Birchington. Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**W** Sun 13 April, 10am (3 hours)

**Pegwell Bay Spring Beach Clean**

Meet: on beach below former hoverport access road (TR353 643). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**G** First Signs of Spring (2 hours)

Join a search for the first wild flowers and migrant birds of the spring.

**Sun 13 April** 10 am – BPCP (KWT)

**Sun 13 April** 1pm – Reculver Visitor Centre (KWT)



**WF Great Eggcase Hunts and Sand Art**

(2 hours) Scavenge the shore's strandlines for clues to life below the sea, and help create a marine masterpiece – suitable for the family (under 16s must be accompanied).  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**Mon 14 April** - West Bay, Westgate.

Meet: next to the Westbay café

**Tues 15 April** - Ramsgate Main Sands

Meet: outside Maritime Museum in harbour

**Wed 16 April** - Joss Bay

Meet: bottom of the slope

**Thurs 17 April** - Minnis Bay

Meet: next to the tidal pool

**Fri 18 April** - Margate Main Sands

Meet: next to the Nayland shelter

**G** Tues 15 April, 11am (2 hours)

**'All Ability' Clifftop Walk**

A 2.8km walk from West Bay to the Sunken Gardens and back, ideal for people with disability.  
 Meet: West Bay Café (TDC 01843 577032)

**O** Thurs 17 April

**Heineken Race of the Classics**

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

**AF** Sat 19 April, 1pm (3 hours)

**Family Workshop – Art and Nature**

See page 11. Book: 01843 280261.  
 ([www.turnercontemporary.org/TCP](http://www.turnercontemporary.org/TCP))

**G** Tues 29 April, 7pm

**Sandwich Bay Guided Walk**

Led by birding experts. Meet: SBBOT field centre.  
 £3.50pp. (SBBOT)

3 to 11 May 2008

**Margate Rocks** (Art Festival)

**AF** Sat 3 May, 2pm (3 hours)

**The Lido Crab!**

See page 11. Lido former pool site Cliftonville (TR360715). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**WF** Sat 3 May, 5pm (1½ hours)

**Low Tide Day Exploration**

Family wildlife rock-pooling fun.  
 Meet: Lido former pool site, promenade, Cliftonville (TR360715).  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**O** 4 - 10 May

**Thanet Walking Festival**

[www.thanetwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.thanetwalkingfestival.co.uk)

**G** Tues 6 May, 7pm

**Ramsgate Harbour Guided Walk**

Led by birding experts.  
 Meet: car park by clock tower. £3.50pp. (SBBOT)

**AF** Sat 10 May, 10am (2 hours)

**Coast on Camera Walk**

Join artist Ruth Cutler and TCP armed with your cameras to observe and record coastal artifacts! Meet by the chalk stack (TR391712). Botany Bay, Kingsgate.  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)



**G** Tues 13 May, 7pm  
**Reculver Guided Walk**  
 Led by birding experts. Meet: Reculver Towers car park. £3.50pp (SBBOT)

**O** Fri 16 & Sat 17 May  
**Green Fayre**  
 Dane Park (TDC 01843 577534)

**G** Fri 16 May, 11.30am (1hr)  
**'All Ability' Minnis Walk**  
 2km walk along the Viking coastal trail, ideal for people with disability. Meet: Minnis Bay Car Park. (TDC 01843 577032)



**G** Friday 16 May 6.30pm (2 hours)  
**Behind the Scenes**  
 An inside look at the National Nature Reserve (see pages 12 and 13). PBCP (KWT)

**V** Sat 17 May, 10am (3 hours) & 2pm (2 hours)  
**Ramsgate Sea Garden**  
 See page 14. Book: (TCP)

**G** Fri 23 May, 1.30pm  
**Birding Talk and Walk**  
 Led by birding experts. Meet: SBBOT field centre. £3.50. (SBBOT)

**W** Sun 25 May 07.45am (4 hours)  
**Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals**  
 Minnis Bay – see 12 April

**W** Sun 25 May, 10am (3 hours)  
**Seashore plus Invaders and Settlers**  
 Reculver Visitor Centre (KWT)

**W** Mon 26 May 8.30am (4 hours)  
**Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals**  
 Minnis Bay – see 12 April

**G** Tues 27 May, 7pm  
**Sandwich Bay Guided Walk**  
 Led by birding experts. Meet: SBBOT field centre. £3.50pp. (SBBOT)

**G** Wed 28 May, 11am (2 hours)  
**Rock Doc Walk – Dumpton Gap**  
 Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Meet: at the top of the slope (TR395667) Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**O** Thur 29 May, 7pm  
**Smugglers Trail Walk**  
 Meet Albion Street Car Park (every last Thursday of the month)

**A** Fri 30 May, 11am  
**Sea Garden Launch**  
 See page 14.

**GW** Sat 31 May, 3pm (2 hours)  
**Seaweeds and their Secrets!**  
 Fascinating guided tour by seaweed expert Ian Tittley from the Natural History Museum. Meet: by Botany Bay Beach Kiosk (TR391712). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**O** Sun 1 June  
**Great Bucket and Spade Run**  
 Historic vehicle run Medway to Palm Bay, Cliftonville. 01843 298969

**O** Sun 1 & Mon 2 June  
**Ramsgate Spring Festival**  
 Celebrating ARTS in Ramsgate. 01843 591081

**W** Sun 8 June, 10.30am (1½ hours)  
**The Great Crab Hunt on World Ocean Day**  
 Meander across rocks and pools with marine ecologist Ian Humphreys to find crabs and marine life on our shores. Meet: Kiosk in Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs (TR396667). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**G** Sun 8 June, 9am  
**Beachcombing Walk**  
 Beachcombing with Dave Kirkaldie. Meet: SBBOT field centre. £3.50. (SBBOT)

**W** Sun 8 June, 10am (3 hours)  
**Seashore Safari**  
 Reculver Visitor Centre (KWT)



**C** Friday 13 June, 6.30pm (2½ hours)  
**Sunset Cycle! (Start of Bike Week)**  
 Gentle evening coastal cycle from Margate Main Sands to Minnis Bay and back. Meet: by Droit House, Margate Harbour (TR353702). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP/Thanet Cycle Forum)

**O** Sat 14 & Sun 15 June  
**Margate's Big Event**  
 01843 577167.

**G** Sun 15 June, 10am (2 hours)  
**Orchids, Butterflies and other Wild Flowers**  
 PBCP (KWT).

**O** Wed 17 June  
**Kent Coastal Conference**  
 See page 15.

**O** 19 – 22 June  
**Broadstairs Dickens Festival**  
[www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk](http://www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk) 01843 861827.

**W** Sat 21 June 06.30am (4 hours)  
**Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals**  
 Minnis Bay – see 12 April.

**WGF** Sat 21 & Sun 22 June, 10am (6 hours)  
**This is your wildlife**  
 See pages 12 and 13. PBCP (KWT).

**W** Sun 22 June 07.00am (4 hours)  
**Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals**  
 Minnis Bay – see 12 April.

**O** Sun 22 June, 2.30-3pm  
**Margate Raft Race**  
 01843 293733

**O** 27 – 29 June  
**Beach Volleyball Competition**  
 Margate Main Sands. 01843 577367

**G** Sat 28 June, 11am (2 hours)  
**Rock Doc Walk – Kingsgate**  
 Discover the world of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Meet: outside Fayrency Hotel.  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**M** Sat 28 June, 10am  
**Marine Mammal Training Day**  
 Identification course. Wildwood, near Herne Bay.  
 £20. (Details: Jon Bramley on  
[BramleyAssociates@btpopenworld.com](mailto:BramleyAssociates@btpopenworld.com))

**G** Sun 29 June, 11am (2 hours)  
**Lizard Orchids and other Wild Flowers**  
 PBCP (KWT)

**O** Tues 1 and 8 July, 9.45am departure (£39.95)  
**The Balmoral – steamer excursion**  
 To London's Tower Bridge, return by coach (8pm).  
 Margate Harbour.  
 Book: [www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk)

**O** 5 – 12 July  
**European Water Skiing Championships**  
 Ramsgate Harbour. 01843 572103

**W** Sun 6 July, 10am (3 hours)  
**Seashore Safari**  
 Reculver Visitor Centre (KWT)



**GW** Wed 9 July, 11.30am (1½ hours)  
**'All Ability' Walk and Rockpool**  
 2.5km clifftop stroll, stopping at Walpole Bay to explore the rockpools. Ideal for people with disability. Beach wheelchairs available on request. Meet: Palm Bay Ave, opp. Palm Bay School (TR380714). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**G** Sat 12 July, 11am (2 hours)  
**Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay**  
 Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Meet: by Viking Ship 'Hugin', Cliffsend (TR351643). Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP)

**MW** Sun 13 July  
**Marine Mammal Medic Training Day**  
 See page 15. Cliftonville.  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP/BDMLR)

**G** Sun 13 July, 11am (2 hours)  
**Butterflies, Dragonflies and other Insects**  
 PBCP (KWT)

**WF Seashore Safari** (2 hours)  
 Summer Rockpool Exploration around the coast.  
 Book: [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) (TCP/KWT)

**Wed 23 July** 10am  
 Joss Bay (south), Broadstairs. Meet: bottom of the Joss Bay slope

**Thurs 24 July** 10am  
 Minnis Bay, Birchington. Meet: next to tidal pool

**Fri 25 July** 11am  
 Westbrook Bay (east), Margate. Meet: Nayland Rock Shelter

**Sat 26 July** 11.30am  
 Walpole Bay, Cliftonville

**Sun 27 July** 12.30pm  
 Louisa Bay, Broadstairs

**Mon 28 July** 2pm  
 West Bay, Westgate. Meet: next to the cafe

**Tues 29 July** 3pm  
 Western Undercliff, Ramsgate. Meet: by small tidal pool

**Wed 30 July** 4.30pm  
 Joss Bay (north), Broadstairs. Meet: Bottom of Joss Bay slope

**W** Fri 25 July 09:15 (4 hours)  
**Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals**  
 Minnis Bay – see 12 April.

**O** 25 - 27 July  
**Big Sky Jazz Festival**  
 Margate 01843 297350.

**W** Sat 26 July 10.00am (4 hours)  
**Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals**  
 Minnis Bay – see 12 April.

**G** Sat 26 July, 6.30pm (2 hours)  
**Sandwich Terns at Sandwich Bay**  
 See the large flock of Sandwich terns.  
 PBCP (KWT)

**O** 27 July  
**Ramsgate Carnival**

**O** 27 July-3 August  
**Napoleonic Renactment**  
 Government Acre, Ramsgate

# shore lines

## Nature and art focus

**Margate Rocks08** arts festival explores the relationship between 'Art & Ecology' (2-11 May)

**[www.margaterocks.com](http://www.margaterocks.com)**

*The Thanet Coast Project needs your help to create the 'Lido crab' out of sand bags with artist Ruth Cutler, who will lead this – before a 'low tide exploration' (both 3 May) – and a 'coast on camera' walk (10 May).*



**Nature is a Workshop** exhibition runs until 1 June. Turner Contemporary's new project space at 53-57 High Street, Margate, shows artworks with links to the environment from the prestigious Arts Council collection.

**[www.turnercontemporary.org/](http://www.turnercontemporary.org/)**

*The Thanet Coast Project links up with Lee Simmons for a free family workshop on Saturday 19 April – just turn up at 2pm!*

## SeaART on show!

Margate Town Partnership found a home for a new metal sculpture created as part of the SeaART2007 workshops thanks to South Eastern Railway. 'The Sea' was designed and created by local artist Ian De Silva with help from local young people. The six foot tall sculpture, along with a poem by Jackie Young, welcomes visitors at the entrance to Margate train station.



The partnership has linked up with local artists to help create new artistic hoardings for the old shop fronts around Margate – including one for the Thanet Coast Project, where artist Ruth Cutler worked with Mencap and Ashdown House to create 'footprints' for the theme to "Leave nothing but..."

More SeaART produced by the Thanet and Dover Youth Offending Service also went on show in Broadstairs Library during March 2008.

*Meanwhile, look out for the Thanet Coast Project's link with local artists for summer exhibitions and workshops with **SeaART2008** which returns for its fifth year soon!*

**IsleArts** Local artists and artisans can list their skills on a new website that has been set up by Thanet's Art Officer, Heather Sawney at **[www.islearts.co.uk](http://www.islearts.co.uk)**

**T**he Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve is one of the most important nature conservation sites in Britain. With its complex mosaic of coastal habitats and unique location on the migratory flight path, the site holds a plethora of nature designations.

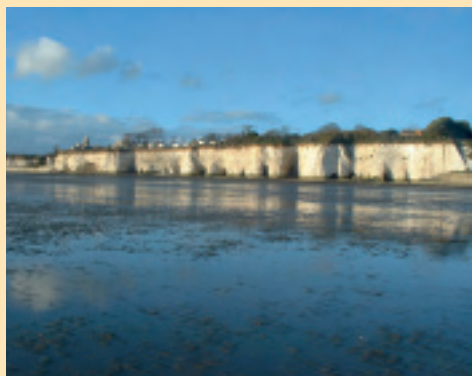
Up to 12,000 golden plovers and internationally important numbers of turnstones are present in winter, together with thousands of other waders and wildfowl which feed on the rich supply of shellfish, crustaceans and marine worms in Pegwell Bay. Breeding birds include redshank, shelduck, oystercatcher, ringed plover and formerly the rare little tern.

It is no surprise that visitor numbers reach 250,000 annually, especially as the public are encouraged to visit and enjoy the site, and learn more about its coastal environment. The primary purpose, however, of a National Nature Reserve is to set aside an area where wildlife comes first. It is therefore crucial that all visitors carry out their coastal activities responsibly and with wildlife in mind.



Tony Swandale KWT

## Sandwich and National Nat



Cynthia Merriman, KWT

**To find out more about the Pegwell and Sandwich Bay National Nature Reserve contact th**

**T**he Kent Wildlife Trust and Thanet Coast Project have been working with representatives from different user groups to try and limit disturbance to wildlife at the National Nature Reserve. A few tips on how to reduce your impact on wildlife whilst enjoying the Pegwell and Sandwich Bay National Nature Reserve, include:

- Prevent disturbance to feeding, breeding and roosting birds by keeping to the coast path and Country Park at all times and do not allow your dog onto the saltmarsh and mudflats
- Give birds space, along the shoreline, to allow them to rest and feed properly





www.planethanet.org

# Pegwell Bay Nature Reserve



Lucy Tuson (TDC)

## Local Activity Agreements

Two local agreements to help reduce disturbance to wildlife within Sandwich and Pegwell National Nature Reserve have arisen from workshops involving local people. In December 2007, a new agreed action involved baitdiggers and birdwatchers, adding to a previous kite surfing agreement with local users.

## North East Kent Coast Workshops

New workshops are planned for 2008 with local people. One will be held for local wildlife boat operators to agree guidelines to reduce their impact on marine wildlife and help with scientific recording of marine wildlife around our coast. Another workshop has been identified to produce better fossil extraction guidelines for our area.

Further information available from the Thanet Coast Project or email [thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk)

For more information contact the Kent Wildlife Trust on 01622 662012 or visit their website at [www.kentwildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.co.uk)

- Avoid the known bird roosts, especially over the high water period, when they need to rest and conserve their energy
- Follow any requests from signs for your co-operation within the reserve
- Take your rubbish home, and please clean up after your dog

For Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) events, view the listings (pages 7 to 10) and look out for the special anniversary celebration of 50 years of the county's wildlife trust on Sat 21 and Sun 22 June, 10am (6 hours) at the Pegwell Bay Country Park.

# COASTAL DRIFT

## Volunteer – join in the action!



**Ramsgate's first Sea Garden** Saturday 5 April and 17 May (see listings). Help create and tidy the new Sea Garden, on the promenade in Ramsgate's Eastcliff, ready for its big launch by Dr Stephen Ladyman MP at **11am on Friday 30 May 2008**. Join the designer and local artist Ruth Cutler to clear litter, unwanted plants, and help restore the flint and sand features. The new bench and panel have been designed by Will Glanfield. This project is supported by Southern Water and Thanet District Council.

**Spring Beach Cleans** (see events 12 and 13 April). Get your litter picker arm ready to assist the tidal clean ups. The Thanet Coast Project is working in partnership with the Clean Kent Campaign [www.cleankent.co.uk](http://www.cleankent.co.uk) Protective gloves, pickers and bags provided, with free refreshments thanks to Broadstairs Tesco Extra.

## Harbour Arm Regeneration

Work has started to bring Margate's historic Harbour back into use. Developed by the Margate Renewal Partnership, the scheme is being led by Pineapple Properties to create units for art studios, retail, catering, local fishermen and a toilet block. [www.margaterenewal.co.uk/](http://www.margaterenewal.co.uk/)

## Starfish startled!

Starfish have been washed up in their thousands along Sandwich Bay, following last year's strandings of hundreds (see Thanet Coast 12) at Ramsgate. This time there were no apparent strong winds, tides or pollution although did co-incided with the mussel dredging in the area – their main source of food.

## Grab man retires!

Rockpoolers will be sad to hear that Chas Matthews of the Kent Wildlife Trust has hung up his wellies to enjoy his retirement. He has helped lead immensely popular Seashore Safaris for the last six years and will be greatly missed by all on Thanet's shores!



Tony Flashman



## Marine Mammal Rescue Training

Learn how to assist with marine mammal rescue on the British Divers Marine Life Rescue training day in Cliftonville. (See listings 13 July, £80 per person).

## No butt, yeah butt, no butt...

The Marine Conservation Society has joined Surfers Against Sewage and British Naturism to launch the 'No Butts on the Beach' campaign. Surveys have found cigarette butts to be the number one item found at most beaches. The non-biodegradable filters have been found in the guts of whales, dolphins, sea birds, fish and turtles. Smokers and coastal businesses can find out more about how to help, or where to get portable ashtrays, at [www.adoptabeach.org.uk](http://www.adoptabeach.org.uk) or [www.sas.org.uk](http://www.sas.org.uk)

## Kent Coastal Conference

The 2008 coastal conference will be held on 17 June at the Pines Calyx, St Margaret's Bay. Further details contact [chris.drake@kent.gov.uk](mailto:chris.drake@kent.gov.uk) or visit [www.coastalkent.net/](http://www.coastalkent.net/)

## New 'All Ability' Walks

New mixed ability walks take place this year around Kent, including some for Thanet. (See events listings for details).



Brett Lewis



Tony Sykes

## thanet coast



### Thanet Coast Project

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

Editors: Tony Child, 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.

# Strandlines...

Take a closer look at all the flotsam and jetsam that has washed up on Thanet's beaches and see if you can match them to the right creature that lives under our seas?



A



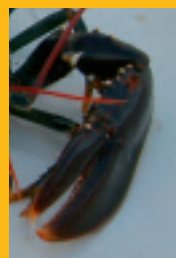
B



C



D



E



The Shark Trust Catshark pictures



1



3



2



4



5

Answers: A Cuttlefish Bone and 4 Cuttlefish. B Whelk Egg Case and 2 Whelk. C Mermaid's Purse and 1 Thornback Ray. D Dog Fish Egg Case and 5 Dog Fish. E Lobster Claw and 3 Lobster.