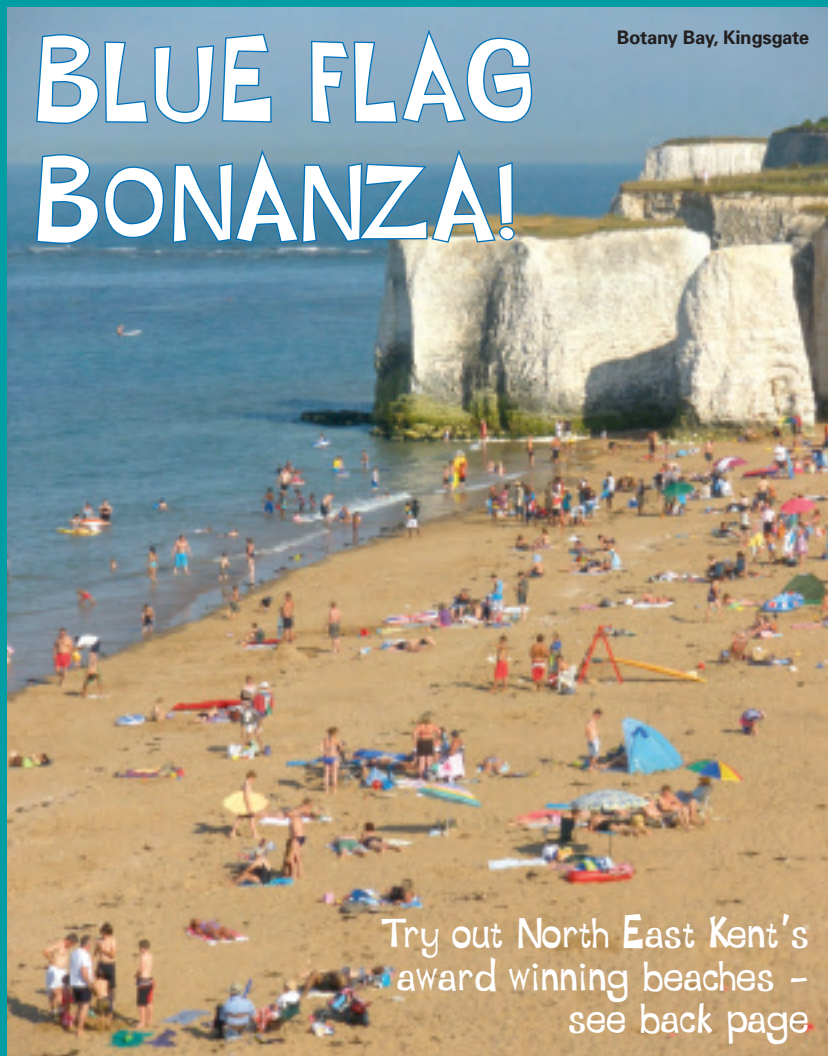




autumn/winter 2008/09

BLUE FLAG BONANZA!

Botany Bay, Kingsgate

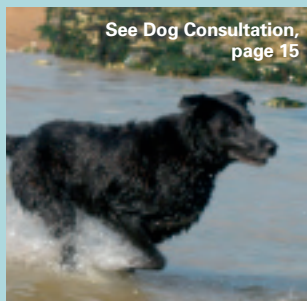


Try out North East Kent's
award winning beaches –
see back page

The Blue Flag is a prestigious international award scheme, which acts as a guarantee to tourists that a beach they are visiting is one of the best in the world. This year, Thanet's beaches have been awarded ten Blue Flags, one eighth of those awarded throughout England. www.blueflag.org.uk



working with people
for coastal wildlife



Coastal Project's Log

Welcome to the Thanet Coast Project's newsletter with news and activities around the North East Kent European marine sites.

We are lucky enough to have a superb coastline – internationally important for its wildlife and habitats. In 2008, the coastline here basked in glory of the most blue flags awarded to any local authority in the country (see page 16).

This newsletter covers activities from summer's Beach Play Scheme and SeaART2008 to the autumn's Beachwatch litter recording (page 11), the half term's Kent Coastal Week and then the North East Coast's Research Conference (page 3) through winter to spring 2009's beach cleans.

You'll find information linked to the current management of the coast involving our six-monthly 'NE Kent coast stakeholder' meetings (page 6), and this issue focuses on the new specific action discussed at the last workshop to discuss the feasibility of setting up a new 'Thanet Coastal Arts Project' (pages 12-13). You can also have your say!

If you feel that you can help, then read more about the free training for 'championing' marine and coastal wildlife and the environment under the Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme (page 4) or through volunteering on beach cleans or Kent's Coastal Week (page 11).

Tony Child, Manager
Naomi Biggs, Education Officer

Coastal contents

- 3** Coming Up
- 4-5** Community Action
- 6** Coastal Drift – representing coastal interests
- 7-10** Coastal Events Listings
- 11** Shorelines – Beach cleans
- 12-13** Thanet Coastal Arts Initiative
- 14-15** Coastal Drift – Snippets of news
- 16** Blue Flag Beaches

Summer BeachPlay

We are delighted to announce the arrival of three new Beach Play Assistants, who will be joining the Project team for the summer. Nora Aldous, Suzie Hooper and Angela O'Donnell will be leading a whole host of coastal activities as part of Beach Play for five to 18 year olds during the six weeks of school holidays.



Suzie, Angela and
Nora with volunteer
Nina and Naomi

Youth groups including the Quarterdeck, Connexions and Surestart Millmead have booked onto surfing and kayaking taster sessions at Joss Bay, seal trips with Horizon Sea Safaris and adventure golf at Strokes. Thanks to support from the Big Lottery, there are still plenty of free coastal activities for young people to enjoy and not just during August.

Beach Play will run into the October and February half terms with more Coastal Art courses, Scavenger Hunts and Scuba diving taster sessions with Kent Scuba, all free to children and young people. Keep a look out for the events – all bookable online at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Coastal Research 2008



Blue Jellyfish
(*Cyanea lamarckii*)

If you would like to find out about the latest scientific coastal research in our area, then the fourth North East Kent Coastal Research Conference could be for you!

The North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group (NEKSCAG) organises this conference every two years as a forum for local coastal research projects that help provide the scientific basis and discussion to

inform future management decisions.

Research presentations will include the spread of the non-native Pacific Oysters around NE Kent coast, CHARM (fisheries) project; Marine Protected Areas (Eastern English Channel); Shoresearch mapping and research projects within Pegwell Bay and Kent Seals. This year includes a fishing debate, with audience participation, linking art, science and fishing!

The conference is on **Tuesday 25 November** at the Pfizer Social Club. Places are limited and you can reserve book your place for £5.00 online at www.thanetcoast.org.uk from October 2008.

Thanet Coastal Wardens

The Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) had an audience of volunteer wardens captivated in July, as they presented the first advanced Shorelife Identification training course. Marine Officer, Bryony Chapman, and KWT volunteer Fred Booth enthralled everyone by detailing the quirky features, life cycles and feeding habits of Thanet's most common rockpool creatures. This helped enthuse and arm volunteers with fascinating fishy facts to pass onto children and families attending the summer's Seashore Safaris.

Autumn has many more training opportunities for Coastal Wardens, with coastal bird identification with the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust (SBBOT) and trips on the Horizon Sea Safaris to visit seals in the River Stour. The trips will have Mike Griggs of the SBBOT aboard, so volunteers will also be able to practice their bird ID skills.

In September, there's another chance to try 'biotope mapping', as Ian Tittley of the Natural History Museum leads a KWT Shoresearch event using global positioning systems (GPS) to map the different seaweed communities of Botany Bay.

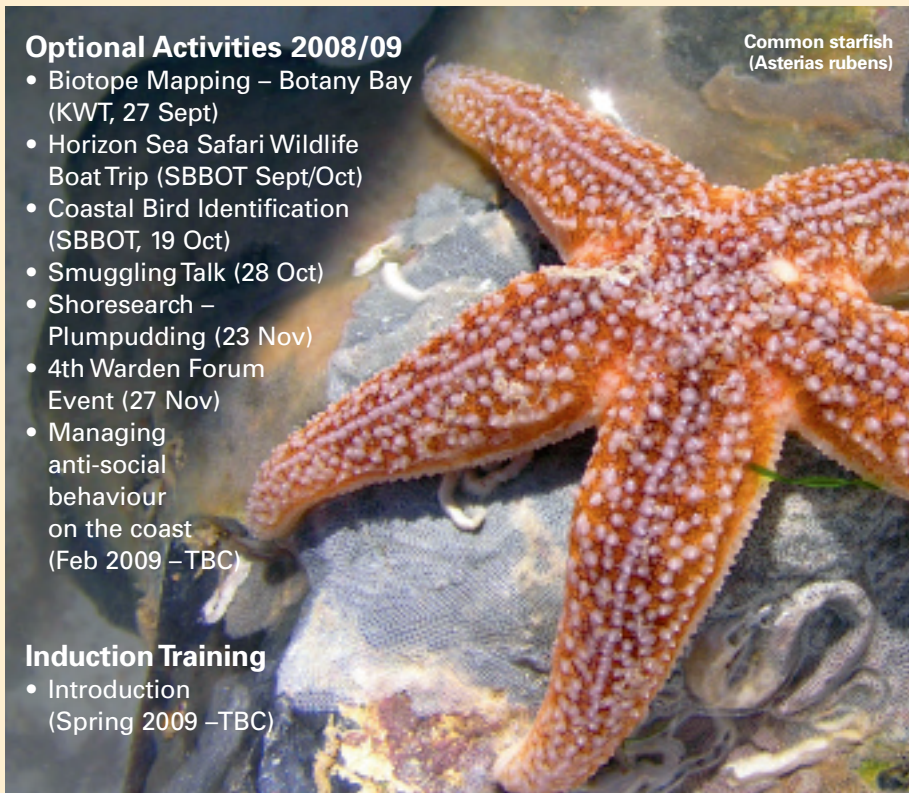
Optional Activities 2008/09

- Biotope Mapping – Botany Bay (KWT, 27 Sept)
- Horizon Sea Safari Wildlife Boat Trip (SBBOT Sept/Oct)
- Coastal Bird Identification (SBBOT, 19 Oct)
- Smuggling Talk (28 Oct)
- Shoresearch – Plumpudding (23 Nov)
- 4th Warden Forum Event (27 Nov)
- Managing anti-social behaviour on the coast (Feb 2009 –TBC)

Induction Training

- Introduction (Spring 2009 –TBC)

Common starfish
(*Asterias rubens*)



MARINE MAMMAL MEDIC

Members of the public gathered at Walpole Bay, confused by the pilot whale, dolphin and seal pups floating around in the tidal pool. On closer inspection, they soon realised that they were inflatable, life-sized models being used for a Marine Mammal Medic training day, run by volunteers from British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMRLR). The one-day course enabled 29 local volunteers, including the Thanet Coast Project team, to be trained in how to aid the rescue of seals and cetaceans, ensuring that any stranded or injured marine mammals washing ashore will be in safe hands.

If you spot any seals, dolphins or whales washed up onto our beaches please inform us and contact the BDMRLR on **01825 765546**.



Viking Coastal Art

Viking Coastal Art courses for families are being run this August by the Thanet Coast Project in partnership with Kent Adult Education as part of SeaART2008.

The free courses at the Margate Adult Education Centre include a trip to study the Viking Ship 'Hugin' and Pegwell Bay, through a variety of creative media to turn Viking ideas into works of art, with the help of artists Ruth Cutler and Trish Harrison.

- Course 1: Fri 8 & 15 Aug, 10am – 3pm
- Course 2: Fri 22 & 29 Aug, 10am – 3pm

This is part of Kent Adult Education's 'Family learning programme' so all adults must be accompanied by at least one child!

Book online at **www.thanetcoast.org.uk**

Representing coastal interests

The 'North East Kent European Marine Sites' (NEKEMS) management scheme (2007-2012) has been devised and agreed by local people - the North East Kent coast stakeholders.

Diverse marine and coastal interests and activities are represented by people from fishermen, residents, hoteliers, schools to retirement groups and clubs. They meet twice a year to discuss issues or catch up with progress alongside the nine 'relevant authorities', who have some statutory responsibilities, on the Management Group. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that the wildlife and features of international importance are kept in a favourable condition, whilst allowing sustainable and non-damaging activities to take place.

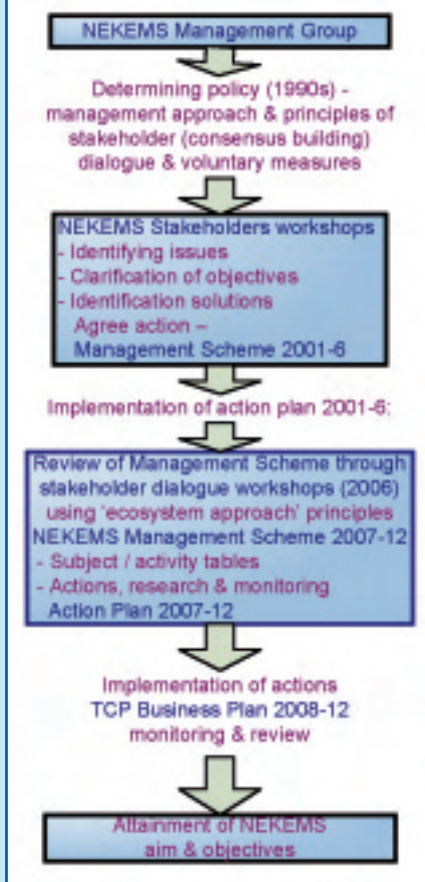
The original four day-long workshops in the late 1990s involved the identification, discussion and resolution of issues affecting these important features. The management scheme (2001-06) was revised during three day-long workshops in 2006 using new ecosystem principles to take a more holistic view of the coastal and marine environment, with agreed actions up until 2012.

The scheme and action plans can be found online at www.thanetcoast.org.uk. If you would like to represent your local group or interest, please do get in touch with the Thanet Coast Project on 01843 577672.

In issue 12 (pages 12-13), we raised the stakeholder discussion on the potential implementation of a local 'Natural Zone' for wildlife to develop relatively undisturbed. This has been superseded by the Government's Marine Bill (www.defra.gov.uk) where new 'Marine Conservation Zones' may form part of these proposals in the Queen's Speech in the autumn of 2008.

In this issue, we raise another action to discuss the feasibility of setting up a **Coastal Arts Project** – see pages 12-13.

Brief Summary: NEKEMS management 1990s – 2012



AUTUMN COASTAL EVENTS

Always 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.

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.

Seashore Safari – shrimping



Turner Contemporary/TCP art workshop, g (page 13)



KEYS TO THE COAST

- A** Art event
- B** Beach Play Scheme (5 to 18s)
- 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

KWT – Kent Wildlife Trust

01622 662012

PBCP – Pegwell Bay Country Park

07889 822412 or 07747 608292

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.

WHAT ELSE?

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

Regular nature events also take place at the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory **www.sbbot.co.uk**

2 Aug
Big Sky Jazz Festival
 01843 297350

2 – 3 Aug
Margate Carnival Weekend
 01843 293733

WFB Seashore Safaris (2hrs) and Beach Play (5 to 18s)

Exploration to find and identify Thanet's shorelife on the chalk reef and rock pools around the coast. Book: on-line at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Sun 3 Aug 9am – Botany Bay, Broadstairs

Mon 4 Aug 9am – Westbrook
 (promenade below Sunken Garden)

Tue 5 Aug 9am – East Cliff, Ramsgate

Wed 6 Aug 9.30am – Stone Bay, Broadstairs

Thur 7 Aug 10am – Minnis Bay, Birchington
 (next to tidal pool)

Fri 8 Aug 11am – Palm Bay, Cliftonville
 (nr. Foreness Water Ski Club)

Sat 9 Aug 11am – Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs

W Wed 6 Aug 08:00 (4hrs)

W Thur 7 Aug 8.45am (4hrs)

Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals

Sailing' excursion from Minnis Bay to seals and sandbanks. Minnis Bay, Birchington (£22.50)
 Book and pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

B Thursdays: 7, 14, 21 & 28 Aug. 2pm (2hrs)

Quexplorers' Aug Adventure Beach Play (5 to 18s)

Join Quex Museum with our marine themed events to learn more about the coast, oceans, seaweeds and fossils through hands-on activities. Book: online at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

O Thursdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 Aug. 10am

Surf & Rescue Camp

Learn to surf and understand beach safety. £10. (2hrs, 8-14yrs) www.jossbay.co.uk

FA Fri 8 & 15 Aug, 10am (5hrs)

Viking Coastal Art (SeaART2008)

See page 5. Two day art course for families. Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/Kent Adult Education)

O 8-15 Aug

Broadstairs Folk Week

01843 604080 www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

A 9-31 Aug

SeaART2008

Contemporary art exhibitions by people living or working around NE Kent inspired by our coast and maritime setting. See pages 12 to 14. (TCP/TDC/Old Town Gallery).

GW Sun 10 Aug, 12pm (2hrs)

Seaweeds & their Secrets

Everything that you would like to know about seaweeds, you can ask expert Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum). Meet: Botany Bay, Kingsgate – chalk stack near Beach Kiosk (TR391712)
 Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

WF Sun 10 Aug, 12pm (3hrs)

Seashore Safari

Reculver Visitor Centre (KWT)

O 11-16 Aug

Ramsgate Week

Royal Temple Yacht Club 01843 591766
www.ramsgateweek.com

G Tues 12 Aug, 6.30pm (2hrs)

Waders, Tern & other Migratory Birds
 PBCP (KWT)

O 12-25 Aug

Lark in the Park

Government Acre, Ramsgate.
www.larkinthe park.com

A Wed 13 Aug, 2pm (2hrs)

'Leave nothing but ...' (SeaART2008)

Help create 'footprints' with Ruth Cutler. Art for All, 9-10 Marine Drive, Margate (07984 683 267)

AB BeachArt! (SeaART2008) 10am (2hrs)

Beach Play (5 to 18s)

Get creative with artist Ruth Cutler with promenade and sand art!
 Book: on-line at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Mon 18 Aug – West Bay, Westgate

Meet next to the café

Tues 19 Aug – Ramsgate Main Sands

Meet outside the Maritime Museum

Wed 20 Aug – Joss Bay Broadstairs

Meet bottom of the Joss Bay slope

Thurs 21 Aug – Minnis Bay Birchington

Meet next to the tidal pool

Fri 22 Aug – Margate Main Sands

Meet Nayland Rock shelter

O Wed 20 Aug

120th Broadstairs Water Gala Day

(01227 700894)

AF Wed-Thur, 20-21 Aug, 10am-3.30pm

Viking Visions (SeaART2008)

Free. Drop-in children workshops led by sculptor Ann Carrington with inspiration from Viking mythology. Under 16s must be accompanied with an adult. Tudor House, Margate (TDC Arts 01843 577428)

FA Fri 22 & 29 Aug, 10am (5hrs)

Viking Coastal Art (SeaART2008)

See page 5 and 8 Aug.

G Sat 23 Aug, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Dumpton Gap

The world of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. £4 adults, £2 children. Meet at top of slope (TR396667). Book & pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk(TCP)



Compass Jellyfish (Chrysaora hysoscella)

W Sat 23 Aug 8.45am (4hrs)

W Sun 24 Aug 9.30am (4hrs)

Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals

Minnis Bay – see 6 Aug

AFB Sat - Mon, 23 to 25 Aug, 2pm (3hrs)

SeaART workshops (5-18s, free)

Create a marine creature out of bamboo and paper with Art Monkeys. Under 16s must be accompanied. IOTA Gallery, Margate Harbour Arm (TCP)

O Sun 24 Aug, 9am onwards

RNLI Trawler Race (2pm) & Open Day

www.rnli.org.uk

O 23-24 Aug, 2-9pm

Wantsum Jazz

Wellington Crescent, Ramsgate (01843 582385)

O 24-25 Aug

Thanet Lions Fete/Summer Fair

Broadstairs (0845 8339532)

B Geology Rocks! 2.00pm (2hrs)

Beach Play (5 to 18s)

Get stuck into a hands-on exploration of the rocks and fossils with the Rock Doc. Book: on-line at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Mon 25 Aug – West Bay, Westgate

Meet next to the West Bay Café

Tues 26 Aug – Ramsgate Main Sands

Meet outside the Maritime Museum

Wed 27 Aug – Joss Bay, Broadstairs

Meet bottom of the slope

Fri 29 Aug – Margate Main Sands

Meet next to the Nayland Rock shelter

G Sat 6 Sept, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Minnis Bay

Rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Meet: Above tidal pool, by chalk cliff (TR287698). £4 Adults, £2 Children. Book & pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

O Sat 6 Sept, 8.30am (9hrs) £5 medics/£10 guests

BDMLR- SE Conference

Gillingham (www.bdmlr.org.uk)

O Sun 7 Sept

Addington St Fair (01843 591608)

Annual Model Ship Rally (01843 581999)

Thanet Marathon (01843 584909)

G Wed 10 Sept, 6pm (2hrs)

Evening Migrant Bird Watch

PBCP (KWT)

National Heritage Open Days

O 12-16 Sept

Pugin's Grange Open Day, Ramsgate

(01628 825925)

O 14 Sept

Quex Museum House & Gardens

(01843 842168)

O 14 Sept

Reculver Towers

(01227 740676)

V Sat 13 Sept, 10am (5hrs)

Beachwatch 2008

Tidy and record litter washed up by the tide. Meet: Sandwich Bay Estate Toll Gate. TR 350578. (KWT)

W Sat 20 Sept, 7.45am (4hrs)

W Sun 21 Sept, 8.30am (4hrs)

Wildlife Sailing Trips to the Seals

Minnis Bay – see 6 Aug

Beachwatch 2008 (see page 11)

Help record litter and clear the beaches in this national weekend of action on behalf of the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) campaign.

V Sat 20 Sept, 10am (3hrs)

Pegwell Bay Beachwatch

Within the National Nature Reserve. Meet on beach below former hoverport access road (TR353 643) Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

V Sat 20 Sept, 2pm (3hrs)

Plumpudding Beachwatch

Along the refreshing Northern Sea wall beaches (TR272 393). Meet outside The Minnis Restaurant, Birchington. Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

V Sat-Sun 20/21 Sept

Beachwatch

Join MCS volunteers around beaches – St Mildreds Bay and Margate Main Sands. www.adoptabeach.org.uk for further details (MCS)

W Sun 21 Sept, 10.30am (3hrs)

Seashore Safari

Reculver Visitor Centre (KWT)

W Thurs 25 Sept

An Introduction to Kent's shores

A beginner's guide to the life found between the tides. £25 per person. Reculver Visitor Centre (KWT Book: 01622 662012)

W Sat 27 Sept, 3pm (3-4hrs)

Shoresearch Mapping – Botany Bay

See page 4. Meet: Cliff-top (TR392 711), Marine Drive, Kingsgate (KWT/TCP)

C 12 Oct

Viking Trail Cycle Hearts first Bike Rides

Coastal cycle ride for the British Heart Foundation (0808 100 2109).

G Sun 12 Oct, 11am (2hrs)

Autumn Migrant Bird Watch

PBCP (KWT)

M Tues 14 Oct, 7-9pm

NE Kent Coastal stakeholder meeting

See page 6. (TCP)

O Thurs 16 Oct, 10am (5½hrs)

World Food Day 2008

Visit TCP's stall to find out more about buying from sustainable fisheries! Winter Gardens, Margate (07777 616697)

Sat 25 Oct – Sun 2 Nov 2008

Kent Coastal Week

Celebrating and exploring the rich coastal heritage all around the county. www.coastalkent.net

V Sat 25 Oct, 12pm (2hrs)

Beach Clean – Pegwell Bay

Join the 'Big Clean Up' around the coast. Meet: On the beach below the hoverport access Road, Cliffsend.

W 25 Oct – 2 Nov – £10.00 specials!

Coastal SeaSafaris

See Kent's seals with Horizon Sea Safaris (HSS)
From Ramsgate Harbour.
Book & pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/HSS)

V Sun 26 Oct, 2pm (3hrs)

Beach Clean for Scout Groups only
Along Northern Sea Wall (TCP)

F Mon 27 Oct, 2pm (2hrs)

Scavenger Hunt

See what the autumn tides have washed in.
Ramsgate Main Sands. Meet: Outside the Maritime Museum (TCP)

M Tues 28 Oct, 7pm (1hr), £2 per person

Smuggling Talk

With historian John Graham. Meet: Walpole Bay Hotel. Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

G Wed 29 Oct, 11.30am (1½ hrs)

'All Ability' Harbour Walk

This 3.5km walk around Ramsgate's Royal harbour is ideal for people with mobility difficulties.
Meet: Car park below Granville Theatre (TR63911653) Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

G Wed 29 Oct, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay

See 6 Sept. (TR351643)
Book & pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

A Thurs 30 & Fri 31 Oct, 10am (5hrs)

Coastal Art

Two day art course for families. Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP/Kent Adult Education)

AF Sat 1 Nov, 9.30am (2½hrs)

Thanet Coast's 5th Big Draw Swimming Sand Sculptures!

Take part in this year's strangest marine SandArt!
Bring friends, family and spades! Meet: on the beach, Viking Bay, Broadstairs
Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

W Sun 2 Nov, 9am (1½hrs)

Rocky Shore Discovery Tour!

Meander across rocks and pools with marine ecologist Ian Humphreys. Meet: By Tidal Pool, Walpole Bay, Cliftonville

V Tues 11 Nov, 10am (5hrs)

Chalk Grassland Management

Help maintain the glades and chalk banks for wildlife. PBCP (KWT)

O 22-23 Nov

Big Sky Beach Motorcross

Quads & Bike racing (01843 297350)

W Sun 23 Nov, 12.45pm (3hrs)

Shoresearch – Plumpudding

Survey the mussel beds at the western end of the promenade. Meet: Minnis Bay car park Birchington TR 284694. (KWT/TCP)

G Sat 29 Nov, 9.30am (2hrs)

Winter Wildfowl & Waders

Watch the waders as they fly in to roost. PBCP (KWT)

G Sat 6 Dec, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Kingsgate

See 6 Sept. Meet outside Fayreess Hotel
Book & pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

Coastal SeaSafari



2009

WG – TBC

Winter Wildfowl & Wader Walks

PBCP (KWT)

V One Saturday per month – why not help on

Practical conservation tasks

PBCP (KWT)

G Sun 18 Jan, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay

£4 adults, £2 children. Learn the language of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Meet by Hugin Viking Ship, Cliffsend. Book & pay: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

G Sat 15 Feb, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay

See 18 Jan

GF Tues 17 Feb, 11am (3hrs)

Winter Warmer Walk

Brisk stomp and scavenge from Ramsgate to Viking Bay & back. Meet outside the Maritime Museum, Ramsgate. Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

O Feb half term

Scuba taster sessions with Kent Scuba

TBC. (TCP/KS)

G Sun 22 Mar, 11am (2hrs)

Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay

See 18 Jan

V Sat 28 Mar, 10am TBC (3hrs)

Plumpudding – Spring Beach Clean

Along the N. Sea wall beaches (TR272393) towards Reculver. Meet outside The Minnis Restaurant, Birchington. Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

V Sun 29 Mar, 10am TBC (3hrs)

Pegwell Bay – Spring Beach Clean

Spring into action to clean our beaches.
Meet on beach below former hoverport access road (TR353643). Book: www.thanetcoast.org.uk (TCP)

shore lines



The Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) annual national Beachwatch campaign helps to record beach litter to get a national perspective as to where it all comes from!

Beach litter is not just an unsightly blight on our magnificent coastline, as many marine wildlife species have mistaken litter for food, resulting in fatal blockages, poisoning or starvation. Plastic and discarded fishing nets can

also injure, entangle and drown marine wildlife, such as seals and dolphins.

The MCS surveys have recorded a 96% increase in the amount of beach litter since 1994. The main sources in South East England beaches were public litter (37%), fishing litter (11%), sanitary waste (2.5%) and shipping litter (2%). This showed an average of 2,054 items of litter per kilometre.

www.adoptabeach.org.uk

Beach cleans

Come and help on our tidal beach cleans around the Thanet coast. See event listings (pages 7-10) for times and places. Protective gloves, litter pickers, bags and refreshments will be provided.

The TCP will run events for Beachwatch (20-21 Sept 2008) and

for Kent Coastal Week with the Clean Kent Campaign.

Beachwatch events organised by other groups will take place on beaches including Margate Main Sands, St Mildred's Bay and Reculver. Keep Britain Tidy is holding national clean-ups during September.

The Thanet Coast Project can tailor beach cleans for any group that would like to organise their own – contact us!

Thanet Coastal Arts – what

The current TCP art events provide an alternative way for people and visitors to become more aware of the wildlife and natural environment around the North East Kent coast, and complement the more direct approach of public events such as educational guided walks or our seashore safaris.

Various art activities can engage with local coastal users and visitors on a range of different levels. These range from the visual inspiration of an artist's work to direct public involvement on a creative coastal art project. Each particular art project has the potential and ability to raise a different coastal related subject, or even a marine issue. They can also

The main remit of the Thanet Coast Project (TCP) is to raise awareness of the marine and bird life of the coast, to work with local people to help safeguard the coast, and to promote wildlife related events and activities – but local people have always asked for the project to make links to the arts and 'coastscape'.

In fact, the links with local artists have been a great success within the Thanet Coast events programme over the last few years. When the North East Kent European marine sites (NEKEMS) Management Scheme was reviewed (2007-12), the stakeholders requested a new main action to explore the idea of a public arts project to promote, raise awareness and help with interpretation of the importance of the coast and marine wildlife and features. The options for a varied approach was subsequently endorsed at a Stakeholder Workshop in May 2008 (see page 6), and now we are after your views.



do you want to happen here?

support the work of local artists. The various ways that the TCP has engaged with art projects have been listed in the options from **a** to **h** below. This is your opportunity to influence future direction.

Use a score of 1 to 5 (where 1 = strong support, 3 = can live with, and 5 = strongly against) and also suggest

any new options (**i**) or add your own comments. The results will be considered by the NEKEMS Management Group. You can either respond to our online survey at **www.thanetcoast.org.uk**, email us, or send your comments to the TCP address (putting 'Thanet Coastal Arts Initiative' in the heading) before 28 February 2009.



a Art exhibitions with local artists	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Art workshops for people (run by artists)	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Environmental art by artists	<input type="checkbox"/>
d Beach art for kids	<input type="checkbox"/>
e Winter sand barriers commissions	<input type="checkbox"/>
f Community Art Projects (e.g. Big Draw's 'line of fish')	<input type="checkbox"/>
g Partnership work with main art bodies (e.g. Turner Contemporary, Margate Rocks, IOTA)	<input type="checkbox"/>
h Art related projects (e.g. Sea Garden; coastal path; coastal playground)	<input type="checkbox"/>
i Other suggestions (eg using art to raise awareness or help interpret the coastscape and wildlife)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Catching up with

COASTAL DRIFT...

Sea Garden

Ramsgate's Sea Garden was successfully launched to promote awareness of planting drought tolerant plants suitable for our coastal conditions. Volunteers can help with maintenance. Contact Ruth Cutler on 01843 591081.

Sea horses?

Kent Seasearchers first dive survey of 2008 discovered a short-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*) close to Dover Harbour. This seahorse that has also been reported in the Thames Estuary this year.

SeaART2008

Contemporary art inspired by our coastal environment is on show at the Old Town Gallery (Margate), the 'Look Out' Gallery (Broadstairs harbour), and Ramsgate's Visitor Information Centre from 9 to 31 August. SeaART workshops include BeachART, Viking Visions, Viking Coastal Art and with IOTA's Art Monkeys (see page 8).

Rock's the word

One of the most striking features of Thanet is our white chalk cliffs! Bring the world of rocks to life on the popular Rock Doc Walks – only £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children. Book your place online at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

New bay signs

The voluntary Thanet Coastal Codes, drafted by local people, can be found promoted on new information signs at Minnis Bay, West Bay, Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate.



Sea Garden h (pages 12-13)



Environmental Art c (pages 12-13)



Changing Topshell climate!

Just three years ago, you would not have found a purple topshell (*Gibbula umbilicalis*) on the Thanet Coast. This mollusk is abundant on the south west shores and has gradually been found along the English Channel shores. Recent seashore surveys have now found them here. They are a species that volunteer wardens have been looking out for as a possible indicator species for the warming of our local seas.



Purple topshell

Did you know?

2006 was the second-warmest year in UK coastal waters since records began in 1870; seven of the 10 warmest years have occurred in the last decade. (2007-08 scorecard, www.mccip.org.uk/)

Dog restrictions

Proposals for new Dog Control Orders on our beaches are available for people to comment on until 29 August 2008. Current by-laws are not the same at different bays, and these proposals would help provide some consistency to prevent dogs on 12 of Thanet's bays between 10am and 6pm daily from 15 May to 15 September.

Bays with orders would include –

- Minnis Bay (main area), Birchington
- West Bay and St. Mildred's Bay in Westgate
- Westbrook Bay and Margate Main Sands
- Walpole Bay in Cliftonville
- Botany Bay and Joss Bay, already have these orders, in Broadstairs
- Stone Bay and Viking Bay in Broadstairs
- Louisa Bay would be the only new restriction, in Broadstairs
- Ramsgate Main Sands

Dogs are welcome, any time –

- East of Minnis Bay to Grenham Bay, Beresford Gap and Epple Bay in Birchington, up to the west side of West Bay in Westgate
- Fulsam Rock (Winter Gardens) to Newgate Gap, and at Palm Bay in Cliftonville
- Kingsgate Bay, Broadstairs
- South of Louisa Bay to Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs and along to the Eastcliff Undercliff in Ramsgate
- Western Undercliff in Ramsgate

To have your say, visit www.thanet.gov.uk and fill in the online survey. Comments should be sent to: Communications, FREEPOST SEA 8273, Thanet District Council, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1XZ or email hannah.thorpe@thanet.gov.uk

BLUE FLAGS FLYING HERE!

Ten prestigious Blue Flag Awards for 2008 have been won by Thanet beaches. Blue Flags are only given to the top coastal destinations which have achieved the highest quality in water, facilities, safety, environmental education and management. For the first time Joss Bay in Broadstairs, regarded as one of the southeast's finest surfing beaches, has achieved the accolade. Other beaches flying the flag are Minnis Bay in Birchington, St. Mildred's Bay and West Bay in Westgate, Westbrook Bay and Margate Main Sands, Walpole Bay in Cliftonville, Botany Bay and Stone Bay in Broadstairs, and Ramsgate Main Sands. Two other North East Kent beaches at Tankerton and Herne Bay also received the award, while Broadstairs' Viking Bay received a Quality Coast Award. Southern

Water's £80 million land-based wastewater treatment improvements for Margate and Broadstairs have helped clean our seas. Thanet was praised by Keep Britain Tidy, who administer the Blue Flag scheme in England, for the best performance in the country for the last decade. This is a superb boost for the local tourism which is already showing an increase towards three million visitors a year, confirming the area as a leading seaside destination.



thanet coast



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

Editors: Tony Child, 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. The Thanet Coast Project is currently seeking support through the 'Two Seas' partnership bid for European funds.