The nature of our coast!



It's an important time for reviewing how we can all manage to keep our coastline so that nature and people can thrive side by side. See page 2.

Four colourful posters will be popping up across Thanet this month with some important messages about marine conservation and water safety – and it's all thanks to local children from Thanet. See page 4.



Project's log book

Welcome to another packed edition of the Thanet Coast Project's newsletter, which includes details of the latest coastal news and activities.

You'll be able to catch up with coastal developments – including the workshops to review the management of the coast (page 2) and what we have been up to



over the first five years (page 3). You can find out about two of the main initiatives to come out of the project, the Thanet Coastal Codes (page 4) and the Coastal Warden Scheme (page 5). All this work was initiated by local people during the first set of Management Scheme workshops.

Look out for all the spring and early summer coastal events and activities listed inside – and why not come and join us!

Tony Child Project Manager



SPRING INTO 2006 COASTAL EVENTS

Guided Walks, Cycle Rides, Beach Cleans and Family Events

Most are not too physically demanding and would suit a variety of ages – but check details as longer events require more careful preparation. Always wear suitable clothing and shoes. Bring drinks, sun-block and hats in hot weather.

- **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 for children this is compulsory.
- **B** For the practical events, gloves and bags will be provided. However, it is advisable to wear stout footwear and suitable clothing (waterproofs/windproofs,

(waterproofs/windproofs, depending on the weather) and to bring a drink and packed lunch.

F – These activities are particularly suitable for children and families, however children must be accompanied by a parent, or responsible adult, throughout the activity.

What else? There's a variety of different events that takes place around our coastline. For further information call Thanet's Visitor Information Centres on 0870 2646111.

KEY

- A Art Related
- **B** Beach Clean/Practical
- W Wildlife (Seashore/birds)
- **C** Cycle Ride
- F Family Event
- **G** Guided Walk
- **M** Meetings
- O Other Events

Book Booking essential via the Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre on **0870 2646111**

KWT Kent Wildlife TrustTCP Thanet Coast Project

TCWS Thanet Coast Warden Scheme

PBCP Pegwell Bay Country Park (TR342 634). Off

A256 Cliffsend to Sandwich Road

VIC Visitor Information

Helping people and wildlife thrive



ork started in 1998 when a series of stakeholder workshops looked at how a range of coastal activities could take place while allowing wildlife to thrive. The resulting North East Kent European Marine Sites Management Scheme lasted for six years, but now it's time to take a fresh look at the Scheme and any changes that should be made, so that it is relevant for the next six years.

The first scheme focused on three specially protected birds – Turnstone, Golden Plover and Little Tern – as well as key habitats, including chalk caves, chalk reef and the sand and mudflats. The new scheme will include other habitats and species and will look at how natural systems work and how people interact with them. This is an internationally agreed approach to management called the *Ecosystems Approach*.

Local people representing a variety of different coastal interests, such as fishing, tourism, economic regeneration and recreational activities, are looking at this approach through a series of workshops. They will be looking at what can be achieved over the next six years. The work is being sponsored by English Nature, Kent County Council and Pfizer.

By coming to the workshops, these groups will influence what goes into the next Scheme. They will consider:

- What is working well now
- How this can be improved and strengthened
- What else needs to happen
- How this can be achieved

We want to find actions that can be delivered over the next six years and that allow both people and nature to thrive.







FIVE YEARS OF MAKING THE MOST OF OUR COAST!

Who, when and why did the Thanet Coast Project start?

Tony Child, the Thanet Coast Project Manager, started in 2001 and was joined by Naomi Biggs, the Education Officer, in 2004. The Thanet Coast Project was set up to help deal with a variety of wildlife issues. The project reports every six months to authorities and agencies responsible for the management of our coastline and works with local people to help safeguard and raise awareness of the importance of the Thanet coastline and wildlife.

Where do you get your funding from?

The main sponsors are English Nature, Environment Agency, Kent County Council, Southern Water and Thanet District Council, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Further funds need to be secured for 2006.

What are your best achievements?

Launching the first set of Coastal Codes for the country was a big achievement for us. Other major projects include the training of the volunteer Coastal Wardens and organising a variety of fun events that support coastal wildlife and tourism.

How many people have benefited?

It's hoped everyone who enjoys Thanet's beaches and bays will benefit from our work. Over 3,000 people took part in 80 public events in 2005. Educational activities were attended by around 1,000 people. Schoolchildren from across Thanet took part in water safety and interactive coastal code talks. Our five year report can be viewed at www.thanetcoast.org.uk/assets/

Thanet Coast Project aims to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of the bird and marine life
- Work with local people to help safeguard the coast
- Encourage and run wildlife related events and activities
- Be a focal point for enquiries
- Keep people informed





EVENTS...

B Sat 1 April, 10am (3 hrs) Pegwell Spring Beach Clean

Fraa

Volunteer and stretch your "mussels", with the collection of flotsam and jetsam over the winter months (gloves and bags provided!)
Meet: Beach below the former hoverport access road (TCP)

B Sun 2 April, 10am (3hrs) Plumpudding Spring Beach Clean

Free

(See details 1 April)
Meet: Outside The Minnis
Restaurant (TCP).

M Sun 2 April, 10am (6hrs) Geology of the Thanet Sands

£20 (reductions available) Study day: visit to see cliffs and fossils at Reculver and Pegwell Bay.

Book: 01622 662012 (Peter Golding, KWT)



W Sun 2 April, 9.15am (2-3hrs) Pegwell Bay Shoresearch Survey

Free

Surveying the boulder shore below the chalk cliffs. Meet: Viking Ship 'Hugin' 01622 662012 (KWT)

B Wed 5 April, 10am (3hrs) Pegwell Bay Spring Beach Clean

Free

(See details 1 April)
Meet: Beach below the
former hoverport access road

B Sat 8 April, 2pm (3hrs) Sandwich Bay Spring Beach Clean

ree

(See details 1 April)
Meet: Sandwich tollgate –
free access (TCP/KWT)

G Sun 9 April, 11am (2hrs) Minnis Bay Rock Doc Walk

Free

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

Meet: by tidal paddling pool, near the cliff

Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

EVENTS...

F Wed 12 April, 2pm (1½hours)
The Great Egg Case Hunt
Free

Join in the hunt for Mermaid's purses – skate and ray egg cases – along the Ramsgate Main Sands tideline for the SharkTrust.

Meet: At the Needle, outside the casino (TCP).

GW Sun 16 April, 2pm (1½-2hrs)

Pegwell Country Park

A walk on the wild side with the warden. PBCP. 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

O 21 April – please check as weather dependent Heineken Race of the

Royal Harbour, Ramsgate. 01843 572100.

Classics

M Tue 25 April, 7pm (2hrs)
Thanet Local Board

Meets for an environmental theme, with talks by the Thanet Coast Project about how you can help! King Ethelbert's School, 07920 428551 (KCC).

A M Tue 25 April, 6pm (1hr) St Ives School

Chris Stephens, Curator, Tate Britain talks about this group of 20th century artists inspired by the Cornish landscape. Margate Media Centre. **Book:** 01843 280261 (Turner Contemporary).

M Wed 26 April

NE Kent coast stakeholders: Management Scheme Review

Workshop 2. **Booking via TCP**

M Wed 26 April

Thanet Coast Warden Scheme: Shorelife Training Special Booking via TCP/KWT

O 26 April - 9 May The Grand Turk

Please check dates, as weather and tide dependent Popular replica of an 18th century British frigate visits 01843 572100 (Royal Harbour, Ramsgate)

GW Sun 7 May 6am (1-2hrs) **Dawn Chorus Walk with the warden**

PBCP. 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

G Sat 13 May, 11am Pegwell Bay Rock Doc Walk

Meet: By Viking Ship 'Hugin' Details/**Book**: See 9 April

NEW LOOK COASTAL CODES

f you're unsure how to avoid disturbing wildlife when walking the dogs along the beach at Westgate or ever need tips about how you can help to act responsibly when angling on the beaches at Birchington – then grab a copy of Thanet Coastal Codes.

The nine codes, which help safeguard wildlife and allow everyone to enjoy coastal activities, have been updated to include even more useful information. Created in 2002, the Codes of Conduct were the first set of guidelines for a marine protected area anywhere in the county.

Clubs and individuals across Thanet have adopted the Codes since they were launched. Dog walkers, sailing clubs, jet skiers and other coastal users have all benefited. So good are the Codes, copies have been flying off the shelves in the office.

Last year representatives from each of the nine activities were asked to update the Codes. New sets are hot of the press with a new design and are available from your local library, Visitor Information Centre or by contacting the Thanet Coast Project.

The Codes aim to:

- · Avoid unintentional harm to marine and bird life
- Encourage responsible use of the coast
- Keep everyone safe

Thanet Coastal Codes

- Seashore Code
- Horse Riding
- Dog Walking
- Powercraft Activities
- Wind-powered Activities
- Shellfish Harvesting and Fixed Netting
- Shore Angling
- Bait Digging and Collecting
- Field Trips









COASTAL CODE



t's amazing what some people can do with a splash of paint and a dollop of glitter.

Four colourful posters will be popping up across Thanet this month with some important messages about marine conservation and water safety – and it's all thanks to local children from Thanet.

The talented young artists were winners of the Coastal Codes poster competition held during last year's Thanet Coast Project's education programme, which visited over 3,500 children in two weeks. Posters will brighten up beaches and classrooms with vital messages about the Seashore and School Trip Codes.

The school visits were organised by Chris Betts, Water Safety Supervisor of Thanet Leisure Force, and Dave Melmoth, a local HM Coastguard. Pfizer Limited kindly offered to design and print the





S POSTERS

posters to support the Thanet Coast Project and there are enough copies for every primary school in Thanet. The posters will also be available on the Project's website.

Naomi Biggs, Thanet Coast Education Officer, who organised the competition, is very excited about seeing the posters in Thanet. "Pfizer has been very supportive in producing the posters and they've done the children's artwork justice," she says. "The posters are wonderfully bright and colourful and are sure to grab the attention of young people around Thanet. Everybody has an important role to play in keeping our beaches clean and safe and these posters are an ideal way to communicate how local residents and visitors can all help preserve our coast for many years to come."



WARDENS SUCCESS STORY

he number of volunteers on the Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme has rocketed to over 100, making our beaches and bays some of the best looked after in the country.

Thanks to the popular scheme, which recently celebrated its first anniversary, all 47 sections of our coastline have now been adopted by at least one volunteer. As well as gaining a better understanding about human and wildlife activities on our beaches, the volunteers help the Thanet Coast Project by offering their support in a variety

Wardens have taken part in a range of activities, such as recording Turnstones, rockpooling for marine beasts and helping to run the Seashore Safaris – a summer programme of marine education activities for children. Volunteers across Thanet have spotted missing torpedo buoys, litter, washed up oil and even a marooned harbour porpoise. Some have used their skills and experience to help with administration duties for the Thanet Coast Project.

The Wardens have helped to spread the word about the importance of our coast and have been integral in raising the profile of the Thanet Coast Project. In return for their hard work, volunteers are invited to attend training events, including coastal bird identification with the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, the Adopt-a-Beach scheme organised by the Marine Conservation Society and presentations on Marine Mammals.

The first year of the Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme ended with a celebration evening at Ramsgate Yacht Club, giving wardens the chance to share their volunteer experiences. It was also an opportunity for St. Mildred's Bay Association to show off their 'Volunteer Excellence Award' from Kent County Council, which was won for dedicated hard work with the warden scheme.

If you fancy volunteering as a Coastal Warden, call 01843 577409.

Warden Scheme Training

Core modules

- 1 Shore Life Identification (March)
- 2 Coastal Warden Induction (May) **Optional modules**
- 3 Shorelife Special (April)
- 4 Geology Walk and Talk (May)
- 5 Whale and Dolphins (TBC)
- 6 Contraband Corner (Sept)
- 7 Archaeology of the Thanet Coast (Oct)
- 8 Coastal Bird Identification (Oct/Nov)

EVENTS...

Kent Network's Personal **Watercraft Seminar**

Book: 01622 221487 (Liz Holliday, KCC).

M Sun 21 May, TCWS **Geology Walk and Talk** Training Special Book: (TCP)

F Sun 21 May, 2pm (2hrs) **Early Season Beach** Search

Be a beach detective to find the creatures and fossils hiding under the rocks and seaweed. Reculver Visitor Centre. 01622 662012 (KWT).

W Thurs 25 May, 1pm (5hrs

Shoresearch - Biotopes Survey

Introduction to mapping and surveying of Thanet's shore (Natural History Museum) Dumpton Gap. Meet: Top of the Dumpton Gap

01622 662012 (Shoresearch, KWT)



F Sat 27 May, 5.30pm (2hrs) Low Tide Day at Dumpton Gap

A celebration of the low tide, come and join in with rockpooling and games. (TCP/16plus Youth Forum/ Millennium Volunteers)

O 27 and 30 May Dunkirk Little Ships Association

tide dependent. Set sail (27th) and return (30th) by 30 Little Ships to mark the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Association.

GW Sun 28 May **Pegwell Country Park**

Walk on the wild side with the warden. PBCP.

EVENTS...

G Thurs 1 June, 10am start

Dumpton Gap Rock Doc

Walk

Free

Meet: Bottom of the slope. Details/**Book:** See 9 April

F Sun 4 June, 11am (2hrs) Seashore Scavenger Hunt!

Free Celebrate World Environment Day (5 June) and World Oceans Day (8 June) by becoming a seashore detective and finding the answers to some fishy questions! West Bay, Westgate-on-Sea. Meet: Outside West Bay café

O Sun 4 June Great Bucket and Spade Run

01843 577672 (TCP)

Heritage car run from Detling to Palm Bay Recreation Ground, Cliftonville 01843 298969



GW Sun 11 June 2pm (1½-2hrs)

Orchid Walk

Around the Country park with the warden. PBCP.

07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

M Thur 15 June
NE Kent coastal stakeholders:
Management Review
Wastaban 2

Workshop 3 **Book:** (TCP).

C Fri 16 June, 7pm (2hrs) **Cycle the Viking Trail** Dumpton to Pegwell Bay

Free

Enjoy a summer coastal ride, taking in the sights to the National Nature Reserve (4.5 miles; prelude to Bike Week on 17-25 June).

Meet: Top of the Dumpton Gap.

01843 577672 (TCP/Thanet Cycle Forum/Spokes)

F Sat 17 and Sun 18 Jun, 11am (2hrs)

Reculver Beach Party

Come and search the beach for creatures, special rocks and fossils.

Reculver Visitor Centre 01227 740676 (KWT) Catching up with coastal drift

The North East Kent European Marine Sites

Managing the North East Kent Coast is a free booklet summarising of the North East Kent European Marine Sites Management Scheme. It is available from local Visitor Information Centres, libraries or from the Thanet Coast Project.

Monitoring this special coast

The South East of England has a new marine lichen record. That's one of the findings from the latest survey of shore life for the Thanet Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The report will be issued as an English Nature Research Report later this year. For more information, contact Ingrid Chudleigh, English Nature, on 01233 812525.



Research helps decisions

Decisions made about the future of our coast need to be supported by good scientific evidence. The North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group advises the management group on scientific issues affecting the Thanet Coast. The group held two research conferences in 2002 and 2004, and for details on these presentations ask the Thanet Coast Project www.thanetcoast.org.uk

The next coastal research conference is planned for autumn 2006. For further information contact Geoff Meaden at gjm1@canterbury.ac.uk

Conserving the marine environment

Our marine life and seas deserve the sort of protection that is afforded to wildlife on land – and the new draft Marine Bill proposals and consultation is welcomed by many as a step in the right direction towards some very welcome changes. The paper can be viewed at www.defra.gov.uk

Kent PWC Code

here's nothing like the thrills and spills of riding the waves on a jetski or powerboat. But there's also some important advice to take on board – which can all be found in a handy new leaflet.

There's advice on launch sites and environmentally sensitive areas. There are also details of codes of conduct, restricted areas and useful contacts. The leaflet was put together by The Kent Coastal Networks' Personal Water Crafts Working Group. For a copy contact

kent.coasts@kent.gov.uk

The Group has organised a seminar on May 18 in Herne Bay, which provides an introduction to using equipment safely. It's an opportunity to share knowledge and network and will include presentations about how to use water crafts.



There will also be the chance to take part in fun demonstrations, with a display from the UK Freestyle Champion at the end of the day. For more information or to register for the event, please contact elizabeth.holliday@kent.gov.uk

shore lines

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE THANET COAST

The Great Egg Case Hunt

Forget chocolate or candy covered sweets, there's something fishy about an Easter egg hunt in Thanet. People of all ages are invited to the first ever 'Great Egg Case Hunt' to search for Skate and Ray eggs at Ramsgate's Main Sands shoreline on Wednesday 12 April at 2pm. Several species of Skate and Ray around the British coast have dramatically declined, so the Shark Trust needs your help to collect some vital information.

Crabbing the News

Non-native Chinese mitten crabs were found in the mud and sands at Sandwich Bay for the first time during Kent Wildlife Trust's Shoresearch study day. They were first recorded in Great Britain in the Thames in 1935.



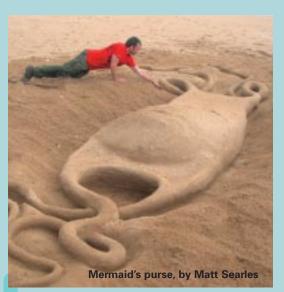
All a-Board

The Thanet Local Board with Kent County Council Members now meets local people every three months. The Thanet Coast Project will link with other projects – such as Global Action Plan (01304 621041) - to raise people's awareness of their local environment. Come along on Tuesday 25 April to King Ethelbert's School in Birchington. For further details, contact Louise Boulton on 07920 428551.



Environmental Art

Talented artists wanting to inspire people with their coastal creations are urged to contact the Thanet Coast Project, Artists inspired by the North East Kent coast could be included for this summer's exhibition that's held in conjunction with Gallery I.O.T.A.



Want to help? Then you can VOLUNTEER ON THE BEACH SCENE AND GET IT CLEAN! Sat 1 April 10am (3hrs) Pegwell Bay

Sun 2 April 10am (3hrs) Plumpudding Wed 5 April 10am (3hrs) Pegwell Bay Sat 8 April 2pm (3hrs) Sandwich Bay



EVENTS...

M Sat 17 and Sun 18 June, 9.30am-3.30pm

Marine Mammal ID Workshop

£30 per person Training from ORCA and Kent Mammal Group; with boat trip to see the seals off Margate. 01233 812033 (Mike Phillips, BTCV)

O Sat 17 – Sun 18 June **Kent Air Show**

Margate - spectacular air display with ground activities: a fun-filled experience for the whole family. 01843 292795 or 296111. Adult/Child 7-16: £10/£4 (£7.50/3.00 adv) Under 7s Free. www.kentairshow.com



O 17-25 June **Dickens Festival** Broadstairs.

O Sat 24 June, 10.45am departure - please check as this may change

The Balmoral

Steamer excursion up the Thames to London's Tower bridge via Whitstable and Southend; return by coach (9.00 pm) Margate Harbour

Book: 0845 1304647 (Costs £35.95/£33=ringing back on Fri with info!)

O Sun 25 June **Annual Raft Race** Margate 01843 293733

GW Sun 25 June, 2pm (3hrs) **The Lizard Orchid Walk** Walk starting at Sandwich town quay across the golf links (4miles) with the KWT Warden. 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest,

O Fri 30 June, 2.45pm departure - please check as this may change

The Balmoral

KWT)

Steamer excursion up to London's Tower bridge, return by coach (10pm) Ramsgate Royal Harbour Book: 0845 1304647 (Costs £33/£25)

EVENTS...

F Sat 1 and Sun 2 Jul, 10.30am (2hrs)

Reculver Beach Party

Come and search the beach for creatures, special rocks and fossils. Reculver Visitor Centre. 01227 740676 (KWT).

O Sat 1 - Sun 2 July Ramsgate Powerboat Grand Prix

Considered the premier event of the Grand Prix Season for spectators and competitors, Royal Harbour, Ramsgate. 01843 851601.

O Sun 9 July Sea Sunday

Viking Bay, Broadstairs 01843 600616



O 14-21 July Jazz Festival

Margate – Week of events, with weekend (15-16th) of top class jazz within the Margate piazza (01843 297350).

G Sun 16 July, 11am Kingsgate Bay Rock Doc Walk

Meet: Outside Fayreness Hotel Details/**Book:** See 9 April

WF Sat 29 July, 9.30am (2hrs) Seashore Safari

Free

'Rockpool life' – help us discover and record what lurks between the tides. Minnis Bay – near tidal paddling pool. 01843 577672 (TCP/KWT).

WF Sun 30 July, 10am (2hrs) Reculver Beach Party

Free

Drop in to investigate the exposed rock pools and sandy shore.

Reculver Country Park. 01622 662012 (Chas Matthews, KWT)

WF Mon 31 July, 10.30am (2hrs)

Seashore Safari

Free

Meet: West Bay, Westgateon-Sea – near cafe. (See 29 July)

Look out for the summer coastal events with Seal Trips, Seashore Safaris and Art – find them early at www.thanetcoast.org.uk.

shore lines

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE THANET COAST



Seal up your trip fast!

Every year we get lots of enquiries about seal trips in the area. Trips to the seal colonies and sand banks will run from Minnis Bay, Birchington, in August with Wildlife Sailings. Visit www.thanetcoast.org.uk for details. Tickets are available from the Margate Visitor Information Centre (£18/person) on 0870 2646111

If you can't wait, then arrangements can also be made with Mike Turner who sails out from Herne Bay.

Visit **www.wildlifesailing.com** or call **0122**7 366712. Different rates apply.

River Wildlife

The Sandwich River Bus also runs trips, including one down river from the Sandwich toll bridge to the sea -looking at wildlife along the way – and there's always a good chance of seeing seals (£12 adult/£10 child).

www.sandwichriverbus.co.uk



High Risk at Sea

The coast from Ramsgate to South Foreland has been identified as a 'Marine Environment High Risk Area' by the Department of Transport. The international importance of the coastline's nature conservation will be marked on navigation charts to alert shipping of these sensitive areas. The aim is to reduce collisions and incidents of pollution.

Bird Flu Helpline

Defra is closely monitoring global developments on avian influenza. Anyone who finds one or more dead swans, ducks or geese or more wild birds in the same place, should report details and location to Defra on 08459 33 55 77.

www.defra.gov.uk

thanet coast

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.



Thanet Coast is produced by the Thanet Coast Project. Editors: Tony Child, Naomi Biggs, Richard Martin and Cheryl Pendry, with thanks to contributors including Diana Pound, Dialogue Matters.

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

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.









Supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**



