



## Look out...



Willie McKnight, Coastal Warden

## for coastal fun!

### Join in with our activities around the coast this summer and autumn.

Look out for 'SeaART' – a special collaboration with local artists showing how the sea and coast have influenced them or, especially for kids, bring the family along to the Art Monkey's 'BeachART' workshops at the popular summer seashore safaris (page 2).

This autumn will be your chance to help on one of the largest community sand drawings around, when the 'BIG DRAW' will help create a shoal of fish migrating across the bay (see page 4).



Paul Keene, Avico Ltd

### Project's log

Exploration is always high on our list of things to do and you can look for those elusive 'hidden gems' on the shore (pages 4 and 5). If you have some spare time, you could help out on the autumn beach cleans (page 7) or join our growing training programme of coastal volunteers (page 3).

This really is the time to help take care of our marine environment. Nationally, the Government's Marine Bill consultation will be looking at all the



comments made on how we can improve upon marine planning and conserving our marine wildlife.

Locally, we will be helping to produce a new 'Marine Wildlife Watching Code' (page 6) and looking at all the stakeholder workshop comments to see how we will be managing our North East Kent coast over the next few years (page 3).

**Tony Child**



See inside for shoals of activities for summer, autumn and winter too!

# FALL INTO A 2006 COASTAL EVENT!

## Guided Walks, Cycle Rides, Beach Cleans and Family Events

Most are not too physically demanding and would suit a variety of ages – but please check the details for each event, as longer events require more careful preparation. Always wear suitable clothing and shoes. Bring drinks and sun-block/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, depending on the weather) and bring a drink/snack.

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

**What else?** A variety of events take place around our coastline, including regular events at the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory (01304 617341). For further information call into the Thanet's Visitor Information Centres **0870 2646111**.

### KEY

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

**Book** Booking is essential.

- KWT** Kent Wildlife Trust
- MCS** Marine Conservation Society
- TCP** Thanet Coast Project
- TCWS** Thanet Coast Warden Scheme
- VIC** Visitor Information Centre

# SUMMER SEASHORE FUN!



**J**oin two fun-filled hours of seashore safaris and sand art with the Thanet Coast Project, Kent Wildlife Trust and Gallery IOTA's Art Monkeys!

The rockpooling safaris are one of the most popular events over the summer holidays and are great fun for families with children between the ages of five and thirteen. Explore the rockpools and help us identify the life in each of the bays around our coast or be creative with the accompanying BeachART. Please all wear suitable protective shoes for walking on the rocks, and suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day. The Safaris and BeachART are only possible with the help of our volunteers – so please help us thank them for their support, along with sponsors Pfizer and Thanet District Council.

## SUMMER SEASHORE SAFARIS 2006

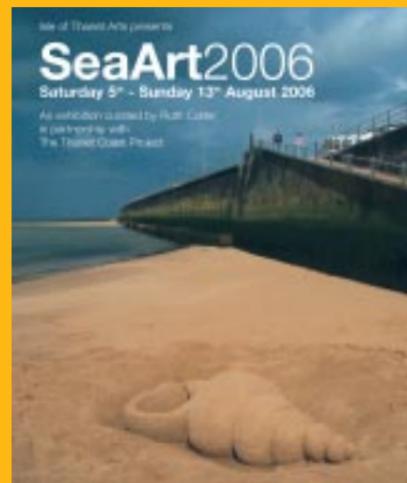


For times see events listings

## 'SeaART - through the eyes of artists'

Sat 5 to Sun 13 Aug, Gallery IOTA  
10am-5pm, Thur-Fri 10am-8pm

View this summer exhibition of work by local artists inspired by the coast and sea. In addition, there are two late evening viewings when images of works, including artists commissioned by the Thanet Coast Project, will be screened. Curator Ruth Cutler will be running children's workshops on 27-28 July (contact Gallery IOTA on 01843 853117 to book) and Art Monkeys will also be running BeachART on the foreshore at the same times as the above Safaris throughout August.



# Coastal Warden Corner

**T**he Coastal Warden Scheme will be celebrating another successful year during its 2nd anniversary event in November. Over 100 wardens are regularly out and about in Thanet keeping a close eye on their adopted bays – making our coastal volunteer scheme one of the most popular in the country.

Volunteer Coastal Wardens monitor human and wildlife activities around the coast and provide a range of information for the Thanet Coast Project.

As well as detailed reports on coastal activities, wardens have snapped some colourful digital photographs, which are useful for illustrating incidents and activities and how individual bays are changing over time.

Earlier this year, wardens took part in a 'Biotope Survey Day' at Dumpton Gap. The day was organised by the Kent Wildlife Trust to trial a new way for recording the different types of wildlife on our shores. Global Positioning System equipment was used to build a grid map of the wildlife in Dumpton Gap.

Naomi Biggs, Thanet Coast Education Officer, said: "The wardens have been testing my marine life identification skills. Volunteers are increasingly visiting rockpools to carry out shorelife surveys. Colourful photos of weird and wonderful sea creatures have been flooding in, among them include pictures of squid eggs, chitons and grey sea slugs – not exactly your average sealife! But it's great as it means Wardens are getting so used to their patch they are exploring by themselves and learning new species all the time."

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



Biotopes survey

## Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme Training

### Core modules

- Shore Life Identification (Aug)
- Induction (Nov)

### Optional modules

- Contraband Corner (Sept)
- Archaeology of the Thanet Coast (Oct)
- Shorelife Special – Walpole Pool (Oct)
- Annual Warden Celebration Event (Nov)
- Turnstone Watch (Feb 07)

# The nature of our coast: where have we got to?

It's been a busy year for the Thanet Coast Project and our coastal users

**T**he main coastal user groups – representing the activities and interests along our coast – have been working with the Coast Project to revise the North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme.

This document sets out the major issues affecting our coastline and also how different groups of coastal users, such as fishermen, surfers, dog walkers and youth groups will work together with the Thanet Coast Project to protect our unique coastline.

Three stakeholder workshops were held and

were independently facilitated by Dialogue Matters. By coming to the workshops, stakeholders have helped to influence what will go into the next Scheme. They have looked at what has gone well and not so well in the past six years, possible solutions and a range of actions and ideas for the next six years. The next step will be to launch the revised scheme in the next few months, once an action plan to manage the coast for the next six years has been developed.

For further information, contact Ingrid Chudleigh at English Nature on 01233 812525.

# EVENTS...

**WF** Sat 29 July, 9.30am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
Free. 'Rockpool life' – help us discover, observe and record what lurks between the tides and join in with the BeachART with Art Monkeys.  
Minnis Bay (Birchington).  
01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**WF** Mon 31 July, 10.30am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
Free (See 29 July)  
West Bay (Westgate-on-Sea)  
01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**WF** Tues 1 August, 11am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
Free (See 29 July)  
Joss Bay (Broadstairs)  
01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**WF** Wed 2 Aug, 11am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
Free (See 29 July)  
Louisa Bay (Broadstairs)  
01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**WF** Thurs 3 Aug, 11am (4hrs)  
**Reculver Beach Expo**  
Free. Investigate the exposed rock pools and sandy shore.  
Reculver Country Park  
01622 662012 (Chas Matthews, KWT)

**A** Sat 5 – Sun 13 Aug, 10am-5pm (Thur-Fri 10am-8pm)  
**'SeaArt' – through the eyes of artists**  
Art by a selection of artists inspired by the coast and sea.  
Gallery IOTA, Royal Esplanade, Ramsgate. 01843 577672 (TCP/Gallery IOTA)

**WG** Sat 5 Aug, 2pm (2hrs)  
**Seaweeds and their Secrets**  
Free. Join expert Dr Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum) for a stroll along the coast to find out all you ever wanted to know about seaweeds! Botany Bay – meet by the chalk stack.  
01843 577672 (TCP)

**O** 5 - 6 August Margate's **Mardi Gras Carnival Weekend**  
01843 293733

**WF** Sun 6 Aug, 3.30pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
Free (See 29 July)  
Botany Bay (Broadstairs)  
01843 577672 (TCP/KWT/RSPB)

**WF** Mon 7 Aug, 4.30pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
Free (See 29 July)  
Winterstoke, East Cliff (north of Ramsgate's Main Sands)  
01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**C** Tues 8 Aug, 10am (1½hrs)  
**Clifftop Cycle to SeaART**  
Free. A leisurely bike ride along the Viking Coastal trail, and a tour of the SeaART exhibition at Gallery IOTA.  
Palm Bay to Ramsgate Westcliff. Meet: Opposite Palm Bay Primary School  
01843 577672 (TCP/Thanet Cycle Forum)

## EVENTS...

**F** Wed 9 Aug, 10am (5hrs)  
**Marine Madness**  
 TCP will be at the KWT HQ to celebrate national Marine Week. Meet their experts, play games and take part in seashore crafts. Tyland Barn, Maidstone. 01622 577672 (KWT)

**WF** Fri 11 Aug, 9am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
 Free (See 29 July)  
 St Mildreds Bay (Westgate-on-Sea). 01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**O** 11 – 18 Aug  
**Broadstairs Folk Week**  
 Concerts, music sessions and workshops... and much more!  
 01843 604080  
 www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

**WF** Sat 12 Aug, 9.30am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
 Free (See 29 July)  
 Nayland Rock (By Margate Main Sands)  
 01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**O** 12 – 18 Aug  
**Ramsgate Week**  
 Royal Harbour – third largest IRC Regatta and races.  
 01843 591766

**WF** Sun 13 Aug, 10am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
 Free (See 29 July)  
 Dumpton Gap (Broadstairs)  
 01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**W** Sun 13 Aug, 9am (2-3hrs)  
**Shoresearch Survey**  
 A survey of the shingle spit on a hard clay, also of interest for its fossils. Long Rock (Swalecliff, near Whitstable)  
 01622 662012 (Bryony Chapman, KWT)

**WF** Mon 14 Aug, 10am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
 Free (See 29 July)  
 Stone Bay (Broadstairs)  
 01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**WF** Tues 15 Aug, 11am (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
 Free (See 29 July)  
 And find out about KWT's Shoresearch and Seasearch. Walpole Bay (Cliftonville)  
 01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**WF** Wed 16 Aug, 12pm (2hrs)  
**Seashore Safari**  
 Free (See 29 July)  
 Western Undercliff (Ramsgate)  
 01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

**WF** Thurs 17 Aug, 11am (4hrs)  
**Reculver Beach Party**  
 Free. Variety of activities including rockpooling, beach art and fossil hunts. Reculver Country Park. 01622 662012 (Chas Matthews, KWT)

**G** Sat 19 Aug, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk**  
 Free. Discover the wonders of the rocks, chalk cliffs, flints and fossils. Pegwell Bay  
 Meet: Hugin Viking Ship  
 Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

**T**his slimy looking creature (below) can be found in a range of colourful shades, including orange, green and even purple. Although you may not think so at first sight, the **Star Ascidian** or **sea-squirt** (*Botryllus schlosseri*) is actually a colony of individuals closely related to animals with a backbone. Each segment of the 'star' is a tiny animal that sits within a jelly-like matrix and filters microscopic particles of food from the surrounding seawater. These filters are some of the finest in the animal kingdom and can even filter bacteria out of seawater.



**Y**ou don't find many blind animals, but the **Chitons** (right) fall into this category. You can usually find them stuck to flints and they peacefully graze algae off the surface of stones. Like limpets, they have a single large foot, which sticks firmly to rocks. As the animal glides over an irregular surface, the Chiton's eight jointed armour plates allow it to bend so that no soft parts are ever exposed. There are several species to be found on the Thanet shore, although the one pictured is the most common – *Lepidochitona cinereus*.



Willie McKnight, Coastal Warden

Even though these little gems are small, they are just as important as the shore crabs and shannies and need to be looked after in the same way. So always remember to carefully replace stones the same way up as you found them and follow the Thanet Coast Seashore Code when you are in the rockpools.

## Thanet Coast's BIG DRAW

**Draw your own sand fish to be part of the shoal as they swim across the bay.** Starting at 10.30am on Saturday 14 October at Viking Bay, Broadstairs, everyone is invited to join. The work is co-ordinated by artist Paul Goodrick and volunteer artists in his team. All you need to do is sign in on the day, pick up your instructions – but remember to bring your own spade!

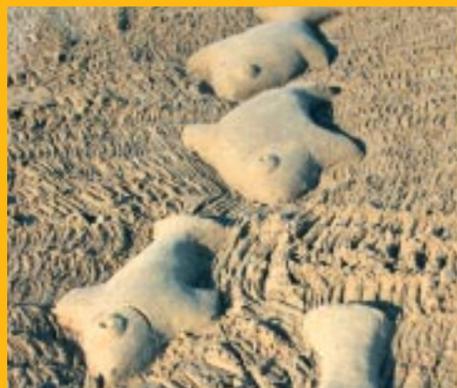
# HIDDEN GEMS

When you're next exploring the lower part of Thanet's rocky shores, rummaging under boulders and stones, keep a sharp look out for some of these 'little gems'. They may be small and hard to spot, but beautiful when you look as closely as Ian Humphreys does here!

**T**his beautiful little sea anemone (right) is called **Sagartia troglodytes**. Unfortunately we rarely see it open like this unless we are lucky to spot them in shallow rock pools. When you turn over a stone, they are often attached underneath looking like a pale yellow blob on a stalk with all their tentacles retracted inside. At high tide, they patiently wait for little shrimps and water fleas to stray into their arms. Immediately upon contact, paralysing threads are shot into their prey and the animal is drawn into the central mouth to be devoured. All sea anemones are immortal so look after them, they might have been around for a very long time!



Join Ian on the 'Rocky Shore Discovery Tour' at Walpole Bay on Friday 27 October at 9am during half-term



Line of Fish for Big Draw 2006, Paul Goodrick

## Fishy features...

### Fishy on a dishy!

One way for you to be environmentally friendly is to make sure that you choose the right fish – when the boat comes in! Shoppers are being sold endangered and threatened varieties of fish by nearly all supermarkets, according to a Greenpeace report 'the Recipe for Disaster' which scores M&S, Waitrose and Sainsburys at the top and Iceland, Safeway and Asda right at the wrong end! [www.greenpeace.org.uk/](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/)

### Fishonline

[www.fishonline.org](http://www.fishonline.org) is the MCA's useful online guide to choosing environmentally sustainable seafood. If you are in doubt about the origin of your fish ask at your shop!

### Modern Sea Fisheries

The government is committed to establishing new legislative changes to ensure that the Sea Fisheries Committees have new powers within the proposed Marine Bill to improve the way the country's fisheries and marine environment are managed. [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

## EVENTS...

**M** Sun 20 Aug, TCWS  
**Shorelife Training Module**  
 Book: TCP

**M** Tues 22 Aug, 6pm (1hr)  
**Charles Darwin, Downe House and the Voyage of the Beagle**  
 Hear from Cyril Aydon all about the impact that Darwin's theories on evolution had in their day. Margate Media Centre. Book: 01843 280261 (Turner Contemporary)

**O** 23 Aug  
**Gala Day**  
 Broadstairs – music, entertainment, competitions, a fun fair and aerial display.

**GW** Thurs 31 Aug, 10am (1½ hrs)  
**Rockpool Ramble**  
 Free. Learn about different species of our shores, with Prof. Periwinkle as your guide. Minnis Bay. Meet: Next to the tidal pool. 01843 577672 (TCP)

**O** Sun 3 September  
**Annual Model Ships Rally**  
 Ramsgate

**O** Sun 3 Sept  
**Kent Coastal Marathon**  
 Thanet Roadrunners

**G** Sun 10 Sept, 11am (6hrs)  
**Reculver Heritage Towers Open Day**  
 Rare chance to climb the medieval towers plus guided walk around the site at 2pm. Reculver Country Park 01227 740676 (Visitor Centre)

**B** Sun 10 Sept, 10am (2hrs)  
**Tidal Tidy Up**  
 Free. Help clear the beach of rubbish. Reculver Country Park 01622 662012 (KWT)

**O** Sun 10 Sept  
**Miles & Barr Charity 5K Fun Run**  
 Thanet Roadrunners

**G** Sat 16 Sept, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk**  
 Free (See 19 Aug)  
 Minnis Bay. Meet: Tidal pool  
 Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

**B** Sat 16 Sept, 2pm (3hrs)  
**Beachwatch**  
 Help keep the beaches safe for wildlife by volunteering at a beach survey and clean. Plumpudding. Meet: Outside The Minnis Restaurant 01843 577672 (TCP)

**B** Sat 16 Sept 2pm (2hrs)  
**Beachwatch**  
 Margate Main Sands  
 Meet: next to the cafe on the beach. 01843 295481 (Local MCS Volunteers)

**B** Sun 17 Sept, 2pm (3hrs)  
**Beachwatch**  
 Pegwell Bay  
 Meet: Beach below the former Hoverport access road 01843 577672 (TCP)

## EVENTS...

**B** Sun 17 Sept 2pm (2hrs)  
**Beachwatch**  
Walpole Bay, Cliftonville  
Meet: next to the tidal pool  
01843 295481 (Local MCS  
Volunteers)

**M** Tues 19 Sept, 6pm (1hr)  
**Fossils Through Time**  
Dr Alasdair Bruce will discuss  
how fossils are a record of  
the past 600 million years.  
Margate Media Centre  
Book: 01843 280261 (Turner  
Contemporary)

**M** Tues 19 Sept, 7pm (1hr)  
**Contraband Corner**  
£2.00 donation/TCWS free  
Hear all about the history of  
Thanet's sea caves and  
tunnels, with this fascinating  
talk from John Graham on the  
smugglers' tales.  
Walpole Bay Hotel, Cliftonville  
Book: 01843 577672 (TCP)

**A** Sat 30 Sept  
**Exodus – Towards a  
promised Land**  
A contemporary retelling of  
Moses and the book of  
Exodus.  
www.themargateexodus.org.uk  
(Artangel/Creative Partnerships)

**WF** Sat 30 Sept & Sun 1 Oct,  
11am (2hrs)

**Autumn Beach Fun**  
Free. Explore the beach for its  
riches and make a sand art.  
KWT, Reculver Country Park  
01227 740676 (Visitor Centre)

**B** Sun 1 Oct, 10am (3hrs)  
**Beach Clean**  
Free. Help volunteer to keep  
the beach scene clean!  
Plumpudding. Meet: Outside  
The Minnis Restaurant  
01843 577672 (TCP)

**O** Sun 1 Oct  
**Quicksand15**  
Thanet Roadrunners

**M** Wed 4 Oct, 7.30pm (1½hrs)  
**Archaeology of the  
Thanet Coast**  
£2.00 donation/TCWS free  
Hear all about the archaeology  
of the Thanet Coast from  
Emma Boast of the Trust for  
Thanet Archaeology.  
Walpole Bay Hotel, Cliftonville  
Book: 01843 577672 (TCP)

**O** Thurs 5 Oct, 9.45 departure  
– please check as this may  
change  
**The Waverley**  
From Margate. Steamer  
excursion up the Thames to  
London's Tower Bridge via  
Whitstable and Southend;  
return by coach (7.15pm)  
Book: 0845 1304647 (Child  
£18.98/Adult £37.95)

**B** Sat 7 Oct, 2pm (3hrs)  
**Beach Clean**  
Free. Help to keep the beach  
scene clean! Pegwell Bay.  
Meet: Beach below the  
former hoverport access road.  
01843 577672 (TCP)

# Catching up...

## Turnstone Watch

**The Turnstone is found in internationally important numbers around the North East Kent coast.**

Find out about our coastal waders and their friends on this winter bird watch, with help from the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust. Turnstones nest and breed in the Arctic tundra over the summer as far away as Canada, but return faithfully to the same stretch of coastline to feed alongside us on the Thanet Coast over the winter months. Join this short talk and watch on Sunday 4 Feb 2007 by booking on 01843 577672.

## Sea Defensive

Shoreline Management Plans – the coastal defence strategy – for our area, were first produced 10 years ago, and are being reviewed throughout 2006. For further information, see [www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk/](http://www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk/)

## Coastal Research Conference

A conference on current marine and coastal issues and concerns around the North East Kent coast is taking place at the Winter Gardens, Margate on Thursday 9 November 2006. This is the third conference organised by the North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group. Previous conferences in 2002 and 2004 can be viewed at [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) Spaces are limited - so book early by contacting Geoff Meaden on 01227 767700 Ext. 2327, or [g.j.meaden@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:g.j.meaden@canterbury.ac.uk)



Sticky situation!

Parachute game

Take part in our exciting activities this summer and receive a Thanet Coast Project "Seashore Star" sticker! The stickers were donated by Quartet in the Community – a Kent Community Schools pilot project set up to trial new ideas about the role of schools in the community. We have been working closely with Quartet, which consists of five Margate schools, to provide popular marine events for the friends and families of this partnership. [www.hartsdown.co.uk/community/](http://www.hartsdown.co.uk/community/)

## North East Kent Marine Wildlife Watching Code

The Thanet coast is home to one of the south-east's biggest populations of seals and naturally they attract a great deal of interest from people. Sadly, 2006 has seen a dramatic increase in the number of watercraft reported to be causing a disturbance to the seals on the sand banks off the coast from Birchington and Margate. This can be particularly worrying during sensitive times when seal pups are being born – in the summer for common seals, and the autumn for grey seals.

The Thanet Coast Project and North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group have drafted a new Marine Wildlife Watching Code in conjunction with local ecotourism ventures and interest groups. These draft voluntary codes are available for comment in 2006, and will be produced as a leaflet for all watercraft users in North East Kent in 2007. Comments on the draft code can be sent to the Thanet Coast Project or emailed to [thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk).

### DISTANCE

Keep your distance. Never go closer than 100 metres (200m if two craft are present) to seals or cetaceans, as they are easily scared.

### SCATTERING

Avoid heading into wildlife – as this will scatter, scare and separate the group

### STEADY

Maintain a steady and slow direction – with no wake – and avoid chasing or harassing wildlife.

### TIME

Spend only a short time near the animals – no longer than 15 minutes.

### YOUNG

Avoid getting close to groups with mothers and young – notably seal pups around in June/July & Oct/Nov.

### RUBBISH

Take rubbish home with you and never dispose of litter or any other contaminants at sea.

These marine guidelines complement the Thanet Coastal Codes – see [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)

## Autumn tidal tidy ups

**Sun 10 Sept, 10am (2½hrs) Reculver Country Park (KWT)**  
**Sat 16 Sept, 2pm (3hrs) Plumpudding, Minnis Bay (TCP)**  
**Sat 16 Sept, 2pm (2hrs) Margate Main Sands (MCS)**  
**Sun 17 Sept, 2pm (3hrs) Pegwell Bay (TCP)**  
**Sun 17 Sept, 2pm (2hrs) Walpole Bay (MCS)**  
**Sun 1 Oct, 10am (3hrs) Plumpudding, Minnis Bay (TCP)**  
**Sat 7 Oct, 2pm (3hrs) Pegwell Bay (TCP)**  
**Sun 8 Oct, 2pm (3hrs) Coldharbour, Minnis Bay (TCP)**  
**Thurs 26 Oct, 9.30am (2hrs/Half Term) Pegwell Bay (TCP)**



## Beach litter

– another fine mess you got me into!

Thanet is beautiful – let's keep it that way. That's the name of Thanet Council's new anti-litter campaign, which aims to show how much there is to be proud of in Thanet. It also warns people about the penalties they could face if they're found dropping litter.

The campaign features beautiful images of Thanet, including shots of Kingsgate Bay and Margate Main Sands. A3 posters and postcards of the images used in the campaign can be purchased at the area's Visitor Information Centres.

On the spot fines for dropping litter, which are issued by the Council's Environmental Health Enforcement Officers and Community Safety Wardens, will rise to £80 in September.

As well as not dropping litter, you can play your part to help by taking part in one of a number of beach cleans this autumn – focused around litter recording and collection for the annual Marine Conservation Society's 'Beach Watch' weekend on 16-17 September.

## Balloons – Don't Let Go!

Sending colourful balloons into the skies may add a bang to a bash – but have you ever spared a thought for the damage they do to local wildlife.

Whales, dolphins, turtles, sharks and fish are all known to have died after swallowing bits of balloons, which are often found on beaches and bays in the district. Many animals mistake floating debris, such as balloons, as food. The Marine Conservation Society is working to make beaches safer for wildlife by campaigning to stop balloon releases.

If you know of a planned balloon release you should alert the Thanet Coast Project. Visit the Marine Conservation Society website to get your hands on a 'Don't Let Go!' information pack, which contains details of alternative fun activities to hold at events such as balloon surfing or balloon popping competitions. [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

## Turner sea change

Art has come ashore with the news that the Turner Contemporary art gallery will be built on the Rendezvous site. Kent County Council has been working closely with Thanet District Council on six exciting new design proposals, which will provide the potential for major new cultural, business and leisure facilities for East Kent. [www.turnercontemporary.org](http://www.turnercontemporary.org)

## Marine Bill & ICZM

The government finished its consultation on the proposed marine bill for the improved protection of our marine environment in June 2006 – so we will have to wait to see what comments will be taken on board! However, there is further consultation until 8 September on the way forward for improving our Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). ICZM aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment, and brings together all those involved in the development, management and use of the coast. [www.defra.gov.uk/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/)

# ...with coastal drift

## EVENTS...

**B** Sun 8 Oct, 2pm (3hrs)  
**Beach Clean**  
Free. Help to keep the beach scene clean! Cold Harbour  
Meet: Outside The Minnis Restaurant. 01843 577672 (TCP)

**W** Tues 10 Oct, TCWS  
**Shorelife Special**  
Book: (TCP)

**AF** Sat 14 October, 10.30 (2½hrs)

**Thanet Coast's Big Draw**  
Free. Join this community sand art event to help create a line of fish swimming across the bay. Bring a spade! Viking Bay, Broadstairs  
01843 577672 (TCP, with artist Paul Goodrick)

**WF** Sat 14 & Sun 15 Oct, 12.30pm (2hrs)

**Autumn Beach Fun**  
Free. Explore the beach for its riches and make a sand art masterpiece with Chas Matthews, KWT  
Reculver Country Park  
01227 740676 (Visitor Centre)

**G** Sun 15 October, 11am

**Rock Doc Walk**  
Free (See 19 Aug)  
Dumpton Gap. Meet: Bottom of the slope at Dumpton Gap  
Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

**B** Thurs 26 Oct, 9.30am (2 hrs)

**Beach Clean**  
Free. Pegwell Bay  
Meet: Beach below former hoverport access road  
01843 577672 (TCP)

**GW** Fri 27 Oct, 9.00am (1½ hrs)

**Rocky Shore Discovery Tour**  
Free. A wildlife meander across the rocks and pools with marine ecologist Ian Humphreys. Walpole Bay  
Meet: next to tidal pool  
01843 577672 (TCP)

**W** Sat 28 Oct, TBC

**Shoresearch Survey**  
Free. Investigation into the life on Kent's harbour structures and floating pontoons.  
Ramsgate Harbour.  
01622 662012 (KWT)

**M** Thurs 9 Nov, 9.30am (6½hrs)

**North East Kent Coastal Research Conference**  
This bi-annual conference will present a technical insight into local coastal issues.  
Winter Gardens, Margate.  
**Book:** See article on page 6.

**WF** Sat 11 Nov, 10.30am (2hrs)

**Autumn Seashore Ramble**  
Free. Explore the Country Park and beach with Chas Matthews, KWT  
Reculver Country Park  
01227 740676 (Visitor Centre)

# EVENTS...

**WF** Sun 12 Nov, 1pm (2hrs)  
**Sea Wall Walk**  
 Free. Walk to the East of the Towers to learn about the birds, groyne and sea defences.  
 Reculver Country Park  
 01227 740676 (Visitor Centre)

**G** Sun 12 Nov, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk**  
 Free (See 19 Aug)  
 Kingsgate. Meet: Outside Fayreess Hotel  
 Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

**AM** Tue 21 Nov 6pm (1hr)  
**Seaweeds and their secrets**  
 Illustrated talk by Seaweed expert Dr Ian Tittley from the Natural History Museum.  
 Margate Media Centre  
 Book: 01843 280261 (Turner Contemporary)

**W** Sat 2 Dec, 1.30pm (2-3hrs)  
**Shoresearch Survey**  
 Free. Survey to the east of Reculver where the Wantsum flows out to sea. Reculver to Coldharbour. Meet: Car park below Reculver Towers  
 01622 662012 (KWT)

**G** Sun 10 Dec, 11am (2hrs)  
**Rock Doc Walk**  
 Free (See 19 Aug)  
 Pegwell Bay. Meet: At the Viking ship 'Hugin'  
 Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

**WF** Sun 17 Dec, 11am (2hrs)  
**Christmas Wander**  
 Free. A seasonal ramble through the country park, returning to the centre for a Christmas fair with Chas Matthews, KWT.  
 Reculver Country Park  
 01227 740676 (Visitor Centre)

## 2007 EVENTS

**W** Sun 4 Feb, 12pm (1½hrs)  
**Turnstone Watch**  
 £2.00 donation/TCWS Free. See p6.  
 Meet: Next to Droit House  
 01843 577672 (TCP/SBBOT)

**G** Mon 12 Feb 12.30pm (2hrs)  
**Winter Warmer Walk**  
 Free. Ramsgate Harbour to Viking Bay (and back). Meet: The Needle at Ramsgate Marina. 01843 577672 (TCP)

**B** Sat 31 March, 2pm (3hrs)  
**Pegwell Bay Beach Clean**  
 Free. Volunteer and help tidy up along the shoreline (gloves and bags provided). Meet: Beach below the former hoverport access road. 01843 577672 (TCP)

**B** Sun 1 April, 2pm (3hrs)  
**Plumpudding Beach Clean**  
 Free. (see 31 March). Meet: Outside The Minnis Restaurant, Minnis Bay, Birchington. 01843 577672 (TCP)

# shore lines

## LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE THANET COAST



### Windrider into action!

New exciting excursions are now taking place from Ramsgate's Royal Harbour. Windrider is a 10 metre Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (RIB) powered by twin 250hp V6 outboard engines, and ably manned by fully Royal Yachting Association qualified instructors and Maritime and Coastguard Agency approved staff. Launched this summer, these exhilarating trips are taking people on trips to the Goodwin Sands to help collate information on the large number of seals to be found here, and along the Thanet Coast. For further information, call Windrider on 07931 744788 or visit [www.windrider-rib.com](http://www.windrider-rib.com)

### On Your Bike!

The Viking Coastal Trail Bike Hire is a new venture at Minnis Bay that offers the chance to enjoy a leisurely bike ride along the proms and cliff tops of our coast, without all the hassle of getting your bike there in the first place! As well as top quality bikes, there is a range of specialist bikes for hire to accommodate the needs of families and disabilities. [www.vikingcoastaltrailbikerehire.co.uk](http://www.vikingcoastaltrailbikerehire.co.uk)  
 Join Thanet Coast Project's Clifftop Cycle to SeaART on 8 August.



### Bonanza Bathing Awards!

Thanet is officially superb on the bathing front! Thanet has the fantastic accolade of being awarded more Blue Flags and Seaside Awards than any other local authority in the country! [www.thanet.gov.uk](http://www.thanet.gov.uk) [www.encams.org/](http://www.encams.org/)

# 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 Ian Humphreys for his gem of an article.

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

[thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk)  
[www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk)

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