

EVENTS...

WF Thurs 28 July
10.15am
Wildlife Sailing
See p8.

WF Thurs 28 July
11am (2 hours)
Seashore Safari
Free (See 25 July). **Joss Bay**
01843 577672 (TCP /KWT)

WF Fri 29 July
11.15am
Wildlife Sailing
See p8.

WF Fri 29 July
12pm-midday (2 hours)
Seashore Safari
Free (See 25 July). **Westbrook Bay**, west side of bay below Sunken Gardens (car park on the prom) 01843 577672 (TCP /KWT)

W F Sat 30 July
1pm (2 hours)
Seashore Safari
Free (See 25 July). **Margate's Winter Gardens**, Fulsam Rock. 01843 577672 (TCP /KWT)

O Sat 30 - Sun 31 July
Margate's Fiesta
Street entertainers and battle re-enactment 01843 280625

WF Sun 31 July
1.30pm
Wildlife Sailing
See p8.

WF Sun 31 July
2pm (2 hours)
Seashore Safari
Free (See 25 July). **Botany Bay**. 01843 577672 (TCP /KWT)

F Sun 31 July
3pm (2 hours)
SeaBritain Nature Trail
Free. Learn about Thanet's marine life and maritime heritage. Ramsgate Main Sands. 01843 577409 (TCP / Millennium Volunteers)

GW Sun 31 July
2pm
Sandwich Terns at Sandwich Bay
Guided walk around the reserve to see the Sandwich terns. PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

O Sun 31 July
Ramsgate Carnival Parade
(01843 853857)

WF Mon 1 August
2.30pm
Wildlife Sailing
See p8.

WF Mon 1 August
4pm (2 hours)
Seashore Safari
Free (See 25 July). **Westgate Bay**. 01843 577672 (TCP/KWT)

shore lines

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE THANET COAST

Clean Kent foreshore!

The Thanet Coast Project has linked up with the Clean Kent Campaign with five spring beach cleans at Pegwell Bay (National Nature Reserve) and between Minnis Bay to Reculver

throughout March and April 2005. You too can help – either by organising your own group clean up (contact 0845 3450210) or by joining our next beach cleans planned for the autumn.



Pegwell Bay spring clean

Managing the North East Kent Coast

Interested in finding out more about the importance of our coastline and the origin of the Thanet Coast Project? Well, a revised and updated summary leaflet, containing information about the North East Kent European marine sites and action plans, is now available from libraries and Visitor Information Centres across the area.

Seals... to whales and dolphins!

Two illustrated talks are coming our way. The North Kent seals will be the focus by marine ecologist Brett Lewis, as an introduction to this summer's seal excursions on Fri 17 June (see Wildlife Sailings below). Then on Wed 6 July, Alex Carlisle will speak about the cetaceans found around our coast. Places will be limited, so please book your space with the Thanet Coast Project on 01843 577672 or 577409 (Small donation on the door, but free to Coastal Wardens).

Language of the rocks

A new series of monthly Rock Doc walks starts this spring. Join them to hear the origins of the chalk, flints, fossils and marine sands and habitats around our shoreline. Walks are free, but booking is essential through the Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre on 0870 2646111.

Wildlife sailings

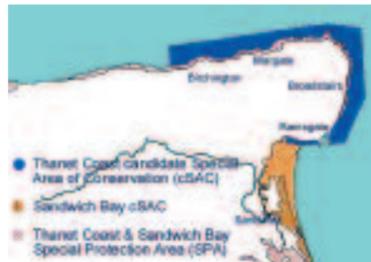
Look out for a new summer series of specially commissioned excursions to the seal colonies and sand banks just off the North Thanet Coast – departing from Minnis Bay, Birchington subject to the weather. They start from Monday 25 July (see July events) and continue throughout the summer holidays (August 2nd, 7-18th, 22-27 & 31st) on the low tide. Book now to avoid disappointment as last year's trips were booked out very quickly! Further details and booking via Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre on 0870 2646111 (Costs £14/person).

Viking trouble!

Investigations are continuing to find out the cause of two water quality failures at Viking Bay last season. Two public meetings have already been held on the issue, with a third planned for the end of April.

thanet coast

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



Thanet Coast is produced by the Thanet Coast Project

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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 document can be made available in other formats, including Braille, large print or audiotape. It can also be made available in other languages on request.



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



thanet coast 8

summer 2005



Coast to post

Look out for a series of four postcards showing some of the Thanet Coast Project's images. They are available now from Thanet's Visitor Information Centres at a small cost.



If you would like to be kept informed about the Thanet Coast Project and added to the newsletter mailing list, contact:
01843 577672
thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk
www.thanetcoast.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS COAST IN

Find out more on page 3!

Project Officer's log book

At last, after three years I'm not alone on deck! So, a huge welcome to Naomi Biggs, the new Thanet Coast Education Officer. You can read more about her work on page 2.

Inside you'll find news about coastal warden training (page 3) and some of the things that have been going on in recent months. You can also catch up with a comparison between two of our extracting industries from the marine environment, fishing and the aggregates industry, on the centre pages.

Will 2005 really prove to be the Year of the Sea? There's certainly a focus on celebrating our maritime heritage: events across the country and locally for SeaBritain2005; a new Maritime Strategy and pressure for a new comprehensive Marine Bill.

Finally, don't forget to dive into the huge list of things going on within the Events Listings, which starts on page 2. There's something for everyone, including beach cleans, seashore safaris and wildlife sailing excursions. Make a note of the ones that you would like to attend, before they're fully booked!

Tony Child



SPRING INTO OUR SUMMER COASTAL EVENTS FOR 2005

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, 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 into 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

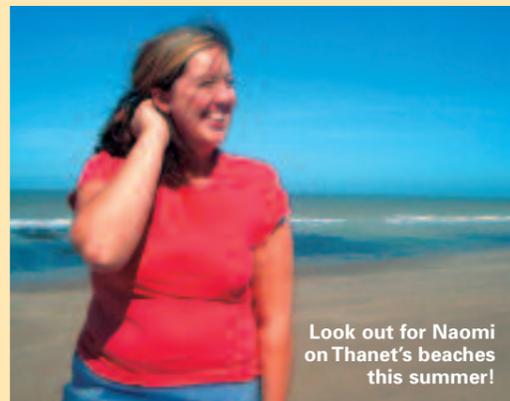
Book Booking essential via the Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre via 0870 2646111

KWT Kent Wildlife Trust
PBCP Pegwell Bay Country Park (TR 342634) Off the A256 Cliffsend to Sandwich Road.

TCP Thanet Coast Project
SBBOT Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust. The Field Centre is on the private Sandwich Bay Estate, but the toll road fee is reduced from £5 to £1 when visitors say they are only parking at the Field Centre for the event.

VIC Visitor Information Centre

Creating coastal links



Look out for Naomi on Thanet's beaches this summer!

From promoting water safety to becoming a wildlife detective, it's all in a day's work for Naomi Biggs.

The new Education Officer for the Thanet Coast Project, Naomi started work last August and has already established the new Thanet Coast Warden Scheme and is building links with local community and education groups.

Supported by funding from a range of organisations, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Nature and Southern Water Services,

Naomi is being employed by Thanet District Council for the next two years.

The job has provided a different challenge every day: "My first outing was at Louisa Bay in Broadstairs with a pack of Brownies who were being Wildlife Detectives. It wasn't long before the beach was full of Brownies peering under rocks and into crevices to see who could spot the most sea anemones, velvet swimming crabs and more."

Since then, Naomi has led field trips with a group from Canterbury College, who were studying for a Countryside Management course and has also visited more than 3,500 schoolchildren in a two week period. She joined Thanet Leisure Force and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on their annual tour of primary schools to put water safety and the newly revised Coastal Codes firmly on the school curriculum.

Naomi has also been raising awareness of the local marine environment and wildlife through presentations, workshops and organising a series of events with local organisations including, Thanet's 16 plus Youth Forum, the Ursuline College's Duke of Edinburgh group, Pfizer, East Kent's WI and Thanet's retired Unison members.

LOW TIDINGS

Low Tide Day is being celebrated on Saturday 7 May, with plenty of games and activities to keep everyone entertained.

The Thanet Coast Project has joined forces with Ramsgate's 16 plus Youth Forum to organise an afternoon of events which will include a sand artist and some of Thanet's favourite marine beasts!

Low Tide Day is held each year, on the Saturday in May with the lowest tide which gives everyone a chance to see what lives beneath the waves, without having to get wet!

Everyone is welcome to join us from 3pm to 5pm at Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs.

A whale of a time

Did you know you can find sharks, seals, sea turtles, whales and bottlenose dolphins swimming around the South East Coast?

This was just one of the fun and educational facts that local children learnt from the Whale and Dolphin Roadshow, during its tour of five Thanet primary schools. Pupils from Chilton, Upton, Birchington, Garlinge and Palm Bay saw life-size inflatable models of a variety of sea creatures, including a 120 year old sea turtle, porpoise, baby minke whale and dolphins. The collection of marine animals represents just some of the delights which could be spotted beneath the waves around Thanet.

The Thanet Coast Project arranged for Andy Starbuck to bring this superb roadshow to local children to encourage them to learn about the unusual characteristics of the sea creatures. They also learnt about how dropping litter on beaches can be harmful to the sea and how you're more likely to be killed by a falling coconut than to be attacked by a shark! See more on the website www.whaleworkshop.org



THANET COASTAL WARDEN SCHEME

This summer more than 60 volunteers are heading out on patrol along the Thanet coast.



Whiteness Bay, Kingsgate

The area's new team of Coastal Wardens have adopted stretches of coastline spanning all the way from Herne Bay and Reculver around to Sandwich Bay, just north of Deal. The scheme is only the second of its kind in the country and is being co-ordinated by the Thanet Coast Project.

Acting as the "eyes and ears" of their beaches, the Coastal Wardens will record details of bird and marine activity and report any pollution or damage to the Thanet Coast Project, which will help to build up new records of our shore. This information in turn can be used to help inform the future management of the North East Kent Coastline.

Before they can go out and about, each warden has to complete three modules of basic training. These have proved so popular, that additional training days have had to be arranged. The modules help volunteers to understand the role of Wardens and the activities and wildlife around our shore. Bryony Chapman and Fred Booth from the Kent Wildlife Trust will help Wardens with shorelife identification training to get some hands-on experience of identifying different marine creatures. So far, the modules have been a great success with lots of positive feedback, including some very encouraging ideas for the future of the scheme. Extra training can also be booked throughout the year on a range of subjects.

Project Officer Tony Child has nothing but praise for the volunteers taking part in the scheme. "The amount of time and effort that they are putting in is admirable. It is evident that Thanet is full of

people who are both enthusiastic and committed to making an active contribution towards maintaining a sustainable coastline for people and wildlife for future generations. And there's still room for a few more Coastal Wardens!"

If you are interested in joining the scheme, there are still some areas of coastline waiting to be adopted – particularly between Reculver and Coldharbour, at Plumpudding, between Westgate to St Mildred's and a couple of areas in Margate. For information on the training courses to become a warden, contact Naomi Biggs on 01843 577409.

Warden Training Modules

- 1 Coastal Warden Induction
- 2 Thanet Coast Activities Survey
- 3 Shorelife Identification

Optional Modules

- Seasearch Special** 3 May 2005
- An Evening Of North Kent Seals** – illustrated talk. 17 June. (Public £1)
- Whales and dolphins around our coast** illustrated talk. 6 July. (Public £2)
- Wildlife Sailings** seal and sand bank excursion. Summer 2005
- Adopt-A-Beach** Marine Conservation Society, TBC-Summer 2005
- Coastal Bird Identification** Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust, 9 October and 8 November 2005

EVENTS...

B Sun 10 April
10am - 3.30pm
Plumpudding Beach Spring Clean
Free. Help to bag up the litter.
Meet: Outside Minnis Bay Café. 01843 577672 (TCP / Millennium Volunteers)

O Mon 11 – Sun 17 April -
Dates subject to weather
Heineken Race of the Classics
17th visit from 20 classic ships to Ramsgate (Wed 13 - Fri 15 April). Ramsgate Royal Harbour 01843 572100

B Sat 16 April
10am (3 hours)
Plumpudding Beach Spring Clean
Free. Help to bag up the litter.
Plumpudding to Coldharbour
Meet: Outside Minnis Bay Café. 01843 577672 (TCP)

W Sat 16 April
9am
Beachcombing Workshop
£11. A day long workshop, introducing East Kent's coastal wildlife. Meet: SBBOT Field Centre. Book: 01304 617341 (SBBOT)

B Sun 17 April
10am -12.30pm
Tidal Tidy Up Free
Help clear the beach of rubbish from Reculver to Bishopstone Glen. Reculver Country Park Visitor Centre. 07808 568821 (John Wilson, KWT)

GW Sun 24 April
2pm (1 - 2 hours)
Walk with the warden
Pegwell Bay Country Park. PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

M Tue 26 April
7pm (2 hours)
North East Kent European marine sites Stakeholders Meeting
See p6. Workshop starting to look at the review of the Management Scheme. Walpole Bay Hotel. Book: 01843 577672 (TCP)

W Sun 1 May
6am
Dawn Chorus Walk
Guided walk. PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

GF Sun 1 May
1pm (2 hours)
Early Season Beach Search
Looking amongst the rocks and seaweed for finds! Reculver Country Park 07808 568821 (Chas Matthews, KWT)

F Sat 7 May
Low Tide Day: Beach Fun
See page 2.

EVENTS...

GF Sun 8 May
7pm (2 – 3 hours)
Life on the Tideline
£2/adult. Coastal walk at Sandwich Bay. SBBOT Field Centre. 01304 617341.

O Sun 8 – Sat 14 May
Thanet Walking Festival
Country walks (01843 846427)

O Thurs 12 - Mon 23 May
Dates depends on weather
The Grand Turk
Charge to board! Visit by the replica 18th century frigate. Ramsgate Royal Harbour 01843 572100

O Thurs 26 and Mon 30 May
65th Anniversary of Operation Dynamo
Dunkirk Little Ships Association re-enactment of the 1940 evacuation to Dunkirk from Ramsgate (26th) and back (30th) again. Ramsgate Royal Harbour 01843 572100

WF Sat 28 May
7:30pm (45 mins +)
Moth Night at Pegwell Bay
Free. See the variety of moths caught from the previous night. PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

WFG Sun 29 May
2pm
Guided walk
Pegwell Bay Country Park led by the warden. PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

G Sun 29 May, 10am
Coastal Creatures
£2 per adult. Help look for critters big and small. SBBOT Field Centre. 01304 617341.

G Tue 31 May
12pm. (2 hours)
Coastal Rock Doc Walk
Free. Kingsgate – Meet: outside the Fayreness, Kingsgate (TR 392710). Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

G Fri 3 June
11am (2 hours)
Coastal Rock Doc Walk
Free. Pegwell Bay Meet: Hugin Viking Ship Picnic site (TR351643). Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

F Sun 5 June 5 p.m. (2 hours)
World Environment Day's Crab expedition.
Free. Find out more about those nippers, with marine ecologist Ian Humphreys. Walpole Bay Tidal Pool (TR 370715). 01843 577672 (TCP)

O Sun 5 June
2pm onwards
The Great Bucket and Spade Run
Historic vehicle run/displays. Palm Bay Recreation Ground. 01843 298969

Between a rock and a hard plaice?

Net earnings

South East England is home to some 750 fishing vessels, although more than 90% of the region's vessels are under 10 metres in length, so are largely restricted to inshore waters. These fishermen have adapted their vessels to carry different gear for different species and seasons, in order to maximise the value of their catch at any one time.

Demersal fish – those living on or near the seabed – including cod, plaice and sole are targeted with mobile gear such as beam trawls or static gear such as fixed gill nets. Pelagic fish – those living higher in the water – include mackerel, herring and sprat, and these are caught with gear such as trawls, drift nets and long-lines. Dredges are used for scallops, oysters, cockles and mussels, while pots are set for lobster, brown crab, spider crab, whelk and cuttlefish. Whiteweed is harvested in the Thames estuary using a towed rake, before it is dried, dyed and sold for decoration to the floral and aquarium trade.

However, the value of sea fishing in the South East is dwarfed by the scale of recreational sea angling in the area, which has an estimated 255,000 participants and an annual spend of around £250 million!

Photos clockwise from top left: dredging; sand eels, Ramsgate; whiteweed harvesting

More information

www.southeastmarine.org.uk – current projects and copies of two aggregates reports.

www.wildlifetrusts.org – bycatch campaign.

www.bmapa.org – marine aggregate extraction.

www.msc.org – Marine Stewardship Council's accreditation scheme for sustainable fisheries.

www.mcsuk.org – to order 'The Good Fish Guide' or view www.fishonline.org

The Wildlife Trusts are working alongside these industries to help conserve the seas as a productive wildlife-rich ecosystem. This feature is a summary from Lisa Browning's article called 'Treasures from the Deep' – for a full version visit the website or contact

Lisa Browning, South East Marine Programme on 01489 774400.

Ever had hydroids? No, it's not an unspeakable medical complaint! Hydroids are small coral-like animals that are fished for sale to the florists' trade – where they are known as 'whiteweed' – and are just one part of the £14 million fishing industry of south-east England. Commercial fishing isn't the only big earner in South East seas: £40-50 million worth of sand and gravel is dredged from the region's seabed every year for use in construction and coast protection. But what is the cost to the environment of these activities?

Lisa Browning, South East Wildlife Trust's Marine Officer, looks at commercial fishing and the aggregates industry and how they affect the environment.



Between the devil and the deep blue sea?

Commercial fishing and aggregate dredging both have an impact on the marine biodiversity of South East England. But which is more significant? The impacts of marine aggregate extraction, though very severe in the short term, are limited to a small proportion of the region's seabed. In contrast, commercial fishing affects almost the entire region, though the impacts are generally less extreme. In applying for a licence to dredge, aggregate companies have to carry out a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment, and the licence conditions include measures to reduce damage to wildlife and habitats. For fishing,

however, while the target stocks are monitored and managed, there is no requirement for assessment or mitigation of wider environmental impacts. A dredger's every move is monitored by the Crown Estate via a 'black-box' recording system, to ensure compliance with the licence area boundaries. Although comparable technology exists for fisheries, it is currently only mandatory for the largest vessels to use it.

On balance then, while there is a need for both sectors to address wildlife conservation and sustainability more fully, the fishing industry probably has the furthest to go in this respect.

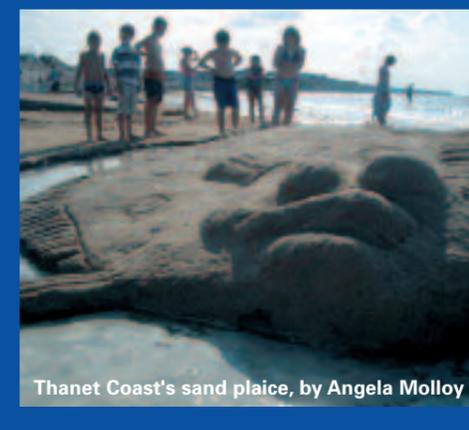
Shingle currency

Marine-dredged sand and gravel – 'marine aggregates' – are an important raw material for the construction industry and are also used in coast protection schemes. Approximately 4 tonnes of aggregates – sand, gravel and crushed rock – are consumed per person each year in the UK. In the South East, more than a third of the supply of sand and gravel is marine-dredged. Half of this – nearly 5 million tonnes – is extracted from sites on the South coast, with the remainder coming from the northern Thames estuary and East coast.

Aggregate extraction may only take place within licensed areas of seabed. Although sand and gravel cover the vast majority of the region's seabed, only in very few locations are the deposits thick enough to make extraction viable. In English waters, marine aggregate extraction is regulated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and licences to dredge are issued by the Crown Estate, in the role of landlord.

Raising awareness of wildlife habitats

The Thanet Coast Project runs a series of public events, some linking people with the wildlife associated with the marine sands and gravels around the North Kent coast. The sand art events were one part of this project within a partnership of projects lead by the Wildlife Trusts' South East Marine Programme. Look out for our new events in 2005-2006 such as seal trips, Rock Doc walks (see Shorelines on page 8), sand art and marine wildlife talks. All are run with support from English Nature through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.



Thanet Coast's sand plaice, by Angela Molloy

EVENTS...

F Wed 8 June, 9am (2 hours)
Round the World!
World Oceans Day. Free. Look into the journey flotsam and jetsam makes before arriving on our beaches. Botany Bay – meet top of slope to beach (TR 390711). 01843 577672 (TCP)

C Fri 10 June
7pm (2 hours)
Coasting into the sunset!
(9 miles to Minnis Bay) Free. A gentle cycle along the coast towards the setting sun over Reculver. Meet: Westbrook Bay Car Park. 01843 577672 (TCP / Thanet Cycle Forum)

O Sat 11 - Sun 12 June
6th Powerboat Grand Prix
Weekend of action packed powerboat racing and on-shore activities. Royal Harbour, Ramsgate. 01843 588836 (Ramsgate Town Partnership)

C Sun 12 June
10am (2 hours)
Bikathon
Margate to Fayreness (5 miles). Bike Week cycle - sponsor forms available for Leukaemia Research. Meet up at Margate Harbour. 0781 4225301 (Leukaemia Research –Thanet)

GW Sun 12 June
2pm
Orchid Walk
With the warden. Free. PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

M Fri 17 June
6.30pm (3 hours)
An Evening of Seals
£1/person. Prepare for this summer's Wildlife Sailing trips with an illustrated talk about Kent's seals with expert Brett Lewis. Walpole Bay Hotel. Book: 01843 577409 or 577672 (TCP)

O Sat 18- Sun 19 June
EUjet.com FLIGHT Thanet Air Show
Spectacular air displays and on-ground entertainment. Palm Bay, Cliftonville. Book: 01843 292795 (Winter Gardens) www.flightairshow.com

O Sat 18 – Sun 26 June
Dickens Festival
Broadstairs. 01843 861827 (Broadstairs Dickens Fellowship)

O Sun 19 June 11am – 4 p.m.
Archaeological Road Show
Bring in your finds to be identified. Richborough Roman Fort 01304 612013 (Normal admission prices apply)

WF Fri 24 June
7:30pm (45mins)
Moth Night at Pegwell Bay
(See 28 May)
PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

EVENTS...

GW Sun 26 June
2pm (2 - 3 hours)
Lizard Orchid Walk
4 miles. From Sandwich town quay across the golf course viewing the rich flora and Lizard Orchids, and back. Meet: Southern end of Sandwich Town quay. 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

O Sun 26 June, 4pm
Margate Raft Race
Nayland Rock 01843 293733

O Fri 1 July
10am departure – *please check*
The Balmoral
Steamer excursion up to London's Tower Bridge, return by coach (6.15pm). Ramsgate Royal Harbour. Book: Hotline: 0845 1304647 (Costs £33/£25)

O Sun 3 July
10am departure – *please check*
The Balmoral
Steamer excursion up the Thames to Tower Bridge via Whitstable and Southend; return by coach (approx. 9.00pm). Margate Harbour. Book: Hotline: 0845 1304647 (Costs £35.95/£33)

C Sun 3 July
10am
Cycle Thanet
Free. Enjoy a day cruising the Viking Trail on your bicycle (28 miles). Meet: Minster station 01227 713285 (SPOKES, Andy McNally)

O Sun 3 July
Jazz at Sunset
Piazza by Margate harbour 01843 297350 (Margate Town Partnership)

G Mon 4 July
4pm (2 hours)
Coastal Rock Doc Walk
Free. Discover the ancient wonders of the chalk cliffs, flints and sands. Dumpton Gap – meet by café on promenade (TR 396667). Book: Ramsgate VIC 0870 2646111 (TCP)

M Wed 6 July
6.30pm
Whales and dolphins around our coast
£1/person. Illustrated talk by Alex Carlisle, Cetacean recorder for 'Organisation Cetacean' (ORCA), a charity that promotes the conservation of the marine environment.
www.orcaweb.org.uk
Walpole Bay Hotel. Book: 01843 577409 or 577672 (TCP)

B Thurs 7 July
7.30pm (2 - 3 hours)
Beachcombing in Sandwich Bay
£2 per adult. An evening of beachcombing and identifying finds in the lab! Meet: SBBOT Field Centre. 01304 617341.

Catching up with coastal drift

Stake in changing the Coastal Codes

Over 50 dedicated coastal users had the rare opportunity to study the diverse marine life found when Walpole Bay Tidal Pool was drained last autumn before heading off for an enjoyable stakeholders meeting at the Walpole Bay Hotel. They were able to mingle and chat with experts on their findings and they were able to give valuable feedback on the revision of our local Coastal Codes.

Thanet's voluntary Coastal Codes have been hugely successful since their launch in 2002 and they have encouraged a majority of coastal users to use the coast in a more responsible and safe manner. The Thanet Coast Project has helped stakeholders to revise the Codes and the first revision is now available for groups and organisations to promote. To get your copy, give us a call or collect it from libraries and Visitor Information Centres across North East Kent.



Walpole Bay Tidal Pool stakeholder expedition with Kent Shoresearch

NE Kent Coastal Conference

Making connections and Kent's forgotten mammals were amongst the subjects discussed at the North East Kent Coast Scientific Advisory Group's second conference in November 2004. The talks covered the recent scientific research from around our coast and included links with local communities and the ecosystem. Those who attended could also take part in workshops to discuss how the 'Ecosystem Approach' could apply to the revision of the North East Kent Management Scheme during 2005/2006. The outcome of the conference will be available soon, in an English Nature Research Report. To get a copy, contact Susannah Peckham at English Nature 01233 812525 or susannah-peckham@english-nature.org.uk

New Research Code

The North East Kent Coast Scientific Advisory Group has produced a new voluntary code for people and groups carrying out research projects around the North East Kent Coast. The code can be downloaded from the factfile at www.thanetcoast.org.uk

Seabritain as you have never seen it before!

Major celebrations will be taking place this year, focusing on Britain's rich maritime heritage and links with the sea. Inspired by the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar, SeaBritain2005 includes festival and events across the country and

involves numerous organisations, led by the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. Visit www.seabritain2005.com to find out more or look out for our events, which include the SeaBritain Nature Trail (Sun 31 July) and Cycle Ride (Wed 3 August). A wide range of maritime events are also taking place across the summer, culminating in the Trafalgar Day celebrations on 21 October, at Ramsgate's Royal Harbour Marina.

Watch out – Coast on BBC

Following from the Blue Planet and last year's 'British Isles – A Natural Heritage', the BBC are going coastal to coincide with SeaBritain 2005. From coastal wrecks to fisheries, from wartime defences to Butlins, the series starts at the end of July 2005 on BBC2 and will link with local events across the country, including those in Thanet.



Sponge encrusted spider crab, Walpole Tidal Pool

Shellfish harvesting ban

A new prohibition has been placed on bivalve shellfish harvesting between Minnis Bay and Reculver within the new classification area for the Thames Estuary and North Kent Coast, which was issued by the Food Standards Agency this year. It is set to last longer than the temporary orders usually placed by the local authorities and for the latest information, contact Environmental Health Officers at Canterbury (www.canterbury.gov.uk – see Shellfish News); or Thanet District Council (www.thanet.gov.uk)

Managing PWCs!

Clubs and launch site management are of crucial importance in tackling the issue of Personal Water Craft (PWC). That's the conclusion of a new working group, set up by the Kent Coastal Network, which identified that problems are often caused by a minority of users. The actions produced from the group are summarised in the latest Kent Coast Bulletin 3 www.coastalkent.net

National Nature Reserves work!

The Kent Wildlife Trust, who manages the Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve (NNR) on behalf of a number of partner organisations has been working on a revised Management Scheme and work plans. The scheme hopes to incorporate the restoration of the coastal path around the reserve, a new bird-watching hide

and information signs – including markers to remind coastal users that this area is home to protected wildlife. To find out more contact KWT on 01622 662012 or join the warden's guided walks (PBCP on the events listings).

Snow Coast!

Although many of us enjoyed this year's snow – the harsh conditions were fatal for one particular sea creature. The severe cold weather has meant that many crabs, mainly velvet swimming crabs, faced a very cold death. Experts have been unable to find the exact causes that have led to their deaths and have been investigating the phenomenon.

Sea urchin (*Psammechinus miliaris*), Walpole Bay



SEAS THE FUTURE!

Calls for Marine Bill

Many organisations have been raising concerns about the future of our seas. 'Wildlife and Countryside Link' are calling for better protection of our marine wildlife. Individual organisations including Wildlife Trusts are also lobbying the Government to introduce a comprehensive Marine Bill for a new marine policy and legislation to protect the sea from its many demands. Visit www.wcl.org.uk and www.wildlifetrusts.org to find out more.

The Sea State?

Three years on from the launch of the Marine Stewardship Report 'Safeguarding our Seas' the Department of Food and Rural Affairs, has updated its report on the current state of our coasts and seas. It has noted that cod stocks are under pressure, the common skate is no longer common and that commercial fishing is over exploiting resources. The report 'Charting Progress: An Integrated Assessment of the State of UK Seas' can be viewed at www.defra.gov.uk

Making space for a Maritime Strategy

A new maritime strategy has been launched by English Nature, aiming to secure the future of our seas and coastline. 'Our coasts and seas – making space for people, industry and wildlife' is the culmination of over two years of discussions with hundreds of people who use and manage our seas and coasts for business, recreation and conservation. Log on to www.english-nature.org.uk for more information.

EVENTS...

WF Sat 9 July
7.30pm (45mins)
National Moth Night
(See 28 May). PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

O Sun 10 July
Sea Sunday
Free. Commemorate 60 years since the 2nd World War with an extravaganza in Broadstairs! 01843 600616

O Mon 11 July
2.40pm departure – please check as this may change
The Balmoral
Short steamer excursion to the Foreland and back. Margate Harbour. Book: Hotline: 0845 130 4647 (Costs £11.95/£9.95)

A Fri 15 – Sun 17 July
Inscribing the Island
Literature festival – poets, writers and storytellers. Various venues. 01843 865790 (Maggie Harris)

GW Sun 17 July
2pm
Pegwell Bay Country Park
Free. Join the Warden for a guided walk. PBCP 07889 822408 (Pete Forrest, KWT)

O Sat 23 – Sat 30 July
Margate Rocks
Thanet's Contemporary Arts Festival. Painting, sculpture, video/digital art, performance and live art. 01843 832615 (Festival Office www.margaterocks.co.uk)

WF Mon 25 July
8am
Wildlife Sailing
See p8.

WF Mon 25 July
9.30am (2 hours)
Seashore Safari
Free. 'Rock-pool life' – help us discover and record what lurks between the tides.
Ramsgate's East Cliff (below Winterstoke Gardens). 01843 577672 (TCP /KWT)

WF Tue 26 July
8.45am
Wildlife Sailing
See p8.

WF Tue 26 July
10am (2 hours)
Seashore Safari
Free (See 25 July). **Dumpton Gap**. 01843 577672 (TCP /KWT)

WF Wed 27 July
9.30am
Wildlife Sailing
See p8.

WF Wed 27 July
11am (2 hours)
Seashore Safari
Free (See 25 July). **Stone Bay**. 01843 577672 (TCP /KWT)