

8th Coastal Warden Annual Forum

The Drum Room, Droit House, Margate Harbour, CT9 1JD
Thurs. 22 November 2010, 6:45pm – 9pm



www.thanetcoast.org.uk/wardens

Agenda

6:45-7pm Arrive, Sign in & Drink!

7.00pm Welcome - Outline of evening & update of Thanet Coast Project changes (Tony Child)

7.15pm Marine Conservation Society
Guest speaker: Ed Santry, MCS,
- *MCS campaigns, MCZs & beach litter....*

7.40pm The Thanet Coastal Warden Year & Activities (Suzie Hooper)

8.00pm Nibbles, Networking and What's Next
- Round-Robin feedback/suggestions on:
1. TCWS Feedback – what is working, what needs to be improved?
2. 2013 Training, Events, Practical tasks or Presentation events
3. Proposed changes to 2013's monthly Activity Survey

8.40pm Open Discussion Forum

- Feedback: what's worked, what hasn't, what else you would like to do or include as volunteers?
- News or issues to share: What's been happening in your patch?
- Questions on "going forward"

9pm Depart

1. Thanet Coastal Warden Feedback: 22/11/12

A) The best bits!

Tell us what you have enjoyed most about your volunteering this year - anything new, different or just plain fun?!

Helping with Rocky Shore Safaris

Enjoyed Rocky Shore Safaris –very much a beginner, but learned a lot

Seashore Safaris/family involvement

Safaris in the summer

Learning new things

Learning more about wildlife

Learning about our seashore/coast

Learning to identify birds I hadn't even heard of before

Attending the marine life identification courses

Learning the coastline, watching the weather (1 tick)

Learning about the coast and creatures on it

Courses attended

Meeting new people (x4)

Meet other wardens

Social element wonderful

Doing something that hopefully makes a difference

Being on the coast and appreciating it at times I wouldn't usually be there

Encouraging others to enjoy what we have here

Getting involved in looking after our precious coastlines and helping to raise awareness

Getting out and about to enjoy sun (when we get it), sea, sand and wildlife

Makes me look harder, especially at low tide

Spend longer on the rocks

Encourages my husband to come along/ help with identification

Enjoyed all beach activities with community groups and schools at various bays, beaches and the beach hut

Bird watching

BBQ (x2)

Seaweed evening (x2)

Young Carers Day

Linking in with National Surveys, e.g., species spotting, beach cleans

Can't do much at moment, but am looking forward to more surveys after my op

B) What can we do better?

Tell us any suggestions you have on how we could improve the Coastal Warden Scheme - on post-its or write below:

More species training

More/clearer advice on identification, sometimes not sure of classification of a bird (some look similar)

More training and advice on how to identify a bird species

Help on how to carry out a survey effectively, e.g., advice from experienced coastal wardens

Boat trips – keep please

Good warning of Walpole Bay tidal pool draining

Help linking up the area wardens, i.e., bay to bay. (1 tick)

More social activities, please

T-shirts, fleeces, etc as advertising

Allow access to data (now once it's downloaded, it's gone) – would like to know what others have seen/found in same/adjoining areas

Update electronic data

Update dropdown list of names on warden survey, my name is still not registering on list (x3)

Update coastal warden list to: have correct names with bays, up-to-date contact numbers

More link up with National and International surveys and data analysis

More involvement with local seafront cafes – posting/boarding/contacting, etc

Can't access locked noticeboard at Minnis Bay to put in latest posters – no one had key (top of slope)

Dog poo on the promenade

2. Wardens: Training/Events 2013

This is your chance to help put forward a selection of **training activities, topics/issues, practical tasks or presentation** ideas that you would like included within the future programme. + Note: Please also give “feedback” on other suggestions!!!
✓ support/would attend; ✗ do not like/would not attend; # = add comments

More species ID courses ✓✓✓✓✓✓ (6 ticks)

ID field courses that are split down to spp, i.e., mammals, birds, crustacea, cnideria, etc ✓ (1 tick)

Bird identification courses (I've really enjoyed this side of it, but find it tricky to ID some birds) ✓✓✓✓ (4 ticks)

More shorelife identification

Seaweed course, please
Seaweeds and Their Secrets ✓ (= 2 ticks!)

Oceanography and marine biology intro course ✓✓ (2 ticks)

More geological (earth sciences) courses, chalk cliff, etc ✓✓ (2 ticks)

Warden buddy up/ do a survey in a different area with the local coastal warden ✓ (1 tick)

Area/Bay intros by those interested in all flora/fauna ✓✓✓ (3 ticks)

Warden meet ups, e.g., walks, BBQ, picnics on beach ✓✓ (2 ticks)

Warden walk meets to socialize ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓ (9 ticks)

2012 Examples: *Introductory training; Shorelife identification training. Optional: Bird Watching Health Walk, Seaweeds & their Secrets, Rocky Shore Safari volunteer training; Coastal Warden BBQ; Shoresearch; Climate Change & Coastal Communities....*

3. Proposed Changes to Scheduling of 'Activity Survey'

A few “possible” changes to help when the compulsory survey is completed are listed. Please indicate how you feel by placing a tick in the appropriate box..... ✓

	I would LIKE to see this in place	Not my first choice, but I COULD WORK with it	I would NOT like to see this in place
Remove A/B groups <i>- but each volunteer still completes a minimum of 2 surveys per month</i>	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓ 10 (“choice but not compulsory”, another option: 1 at set time, 1 whenever you can, equal high/low surveys)	✓ 1	0
Complete 2 surveys a month:			
– if we state which weeks to survey in <i>eg “Week 1 & 3” eachmonth</i>	✓✓ 2	✓✓ 2	✓ 1
– any high or low tide where: 1 weekend day, and 1 weekday survey	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓ 8	0	✓✓✓ 3
Keep as it is - Compulsory survey schedule to remain the same (set days/times)	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓ 12	✓✓ 2	0
Summary:	<i>Highest support for keeping the survey schedule as it is, but strong support to get rid of Group A/B designations. We will revise so that we list 2 surveys per month (as before, 1st and 3rd weekends), and state it is compulsory to do at least 1, but encourage wardens to do both if they can/wish. Will also publish dates monthly on the e-News. We will also show a list of bays that have had fewer surveys performed, so people know where we might have gaps, if they would like to do extras while visiting other bays.</i>		