



5 March 2016



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Dear Coastal Wardens,

NEKMPA Coastal Warden Programme 2016

Please find the 2016 NEKMPA Coastal Wardens programme attached, or you can always find it located on the [warden's own webpage: http://nekmpa.org.uk/coastalwardens](http://nekmpa.org.uk/coastalwardens) so always at hand!

These events and activities include further training / learning and volunteer opportunities including a small public events programme (as shown under [events on the website](#)) – so I hope you will find something of interest to you! As usual, it has taken a while since our Annual Forum in November 2015, but includes many of the upcoming suggestions for 2016.

As always, I'm very grateful for the generosity of time donated by you as volunteers – and to individuals leading on some of the walks and talks – such as Ian Tittley, Jon Bramley and this year new ones such as Tom Clegg from Kent & Essex IFCA, and Ken Chapman from Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory. Also thanks to the busy Willie McKnight and the many 'Coastbuster' volunteers on the non-native species project within the NEKMPA.

New Projects in 2016

This year, we link up with the largest marine citizen science project in the country – with the first training session for volunteers to '*Capturing the Coast*' taking place on 4 April.

We will also be linking up with the Kent Wildlife Trust to develop the final HLF bid for the '*Guardians of the Deep*' project with – amongst its five principle aims – work to develop the volunteer networks around the Kent coast learning from the Thanet/NEKMPA warden scheme, and developing new WildBeach educational work. We will also be testing and developing ideas through our public events programme and obtaining feedback to make sure we can get it right. These popular small events would not be possible without your volunteer help and so we hope we can show more and more people what incredible marine, bird and fascinating shore life we have on our coast.

Natalie Ross has now joined Thanet's Tourism team to help deliver more events and activities to attract tourists to Thanet throughout 2016 with support from the Coastal Communities Fund – so keep a look out for online links to these new events. The project is also setting up a second Coastal Community Beach Hut for Thanet, in Ramsgate, and there are two family fun days where volunteers can help (just after & before a seashore safari!)

Events Booking

A few events will use our previous online booking system (see 'Capturing our Coast' on 4 April & the new Wardens Introduction Course on 30 April), but in an attempt to simplify bookings most of the activities can be joined by simply 'ticking' on the appropriate "doodlepoll" – a summary of the links are shown below to help your bookings.

These booking links will be updated as new events are confirmed (at least a month or two before the scheduled date) and will be updated and sent to remind in your quarterly e-News (next out in April!). If you are not online, please do telephone on 01843 577672 in the month leading up to an event, so that we can book you in.

I hope to catch up with you soon at an event – and please do take the opportunity to talk to me about any issues, or raise any questions. Alternatively, you can always contact me by e-mail: thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk or telephone 01843 577672. For those of you that would like to help the project further, we also have an informal warden discussion meeting lined up for 28 April! As always, if you find you can no longer volunteer as a coastal warden, please do let me know.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and help as a Coastal Warden. We appreciate all that you do, as your reports are feed back to the NEKMPA Advisory & Management Groups, and incidents for the authorities to chase up! I'm looking forward to an exciting year with you out on the NEKMPA coast!

Best coastal wishes,

Tony

Tony Child
Thanet Coast (NE Kent Marine Protected Area) Officer

[NEKMPA \(Thanet Coast\) ONLINE BOOKING](#) (hyperlink)

For these two events, online bookings are now open at:

<https://secure.thanet.gov.uk/officeforms/booking-coursebook.ofml?ResourceID=250&sc=74ad4467>

- **Mon. 4 April: 'Capturing Our Coast'** – Margate: 11am (6hrs)

(Attendance, but you MUST register with 'CoCoast' online first!) <http://capturingourcoast.co.uk/user/register>

- **Sat. 30 April, NEKMPA Coastal Warden Introduction** - Margate: 10am (5hrs)

There will be new bookings for Shorelife identification/Capturing Our Coast; Coastbusters (Non-native species) & the Marine Mammal Watching Excursion in the next e-News from April 2016

DOODLE BOOKINGS:

I've streamlined the current doodle booking links below - so please refer to the 2016 Programme for further details, but hopefully this may make booking easier! Please use the hyperlink to take you to the online poll - just add your name to list, and tick the events that you will be able to help at, or attend as appropriate.

March

Book: <http://doodle.com/poll/4m2zhrrisur34kaz>

Fri 11 March - Pegwell Bay NNR

- **9am: Doggie Pitstop - Cliffsend**

- **2pm: Walkies** (with stakeholders: **Pegwell Country Park**)

Sat 12 March

- **9am: Dog pitstop – LookOut, Ramsgate**

- **2.30pm: Walkies (Pegwell Country Park)**

Tue 15 March (Attendance, 2-3hrs!)

- **9am Walpole Tidal Pool draining** / Shoresearch

Great Eggcase/Scavenger Hunts (get there 10:30am for 11am start):

- **Wed 29 March - Margate**

- **Thu 30 March - Broadstairs**

- **Fri 31 March - Ramgate**

April

Book: <http://doodle.com/poll/77k6z7b25srwzeqq>

- **Thur.28 April: CW Support Team** discussion - Botany Bay Hotel, 6.30pm (2hrs)

- **Sat. 30 April, CW Intro - Margate:** 2-3 Volunteers to help on new training, 12am (3hrs)

May

Book: <http://doodle.com/poll/7tvxh8wxt5rb6hqy>

- **Sun. 1 May, Spring Bird Walk** - Pegwell CP, 9am

- **Tue. 10 May, Kent & Essex IFCA presentation** - Margate, 6.45pm

- **TBC 'When the Lights Go Out' (Art/Science Event):** please register your interest ASAP to help, before end of March. **Note: event date** shown as 21st May **WILL CHANGE!**

- **Sat. 28 May, 9.30am Seaweeds & Secrets** (walk/talk)- Walpole: **Free to participate, if you book here!**

July-August: Seashore Safaris

Book: <http://doodle.com/poll/w9m37szin5fmwwxu>

Sat 23 July, 8.30am - Minnis Bay

Sun 24 July, 9am - West Bay

Mon 25 July, 9.30am - St Mildred's Bay

Tue 26 July, 10am - Nayland Rock, Margate

Wed 27 July, 11am - Walpole Bay

Sat 30 July, 3pm - Eastcliff, Ramsgate

Sun 31 July, 5.30pm - Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

{Wed 17 Aug: Water Gala safari - see Other: July-Sept}

Sun 21 Aug, 8.30am - Stone Bay

Mon 22 Aug, 9am - Joss Bay

Tue 23 Aug, 9.30am - Botany Bay

Wed 24 Aug, 10am - Dumpton Gap

July-Sept: Other Volunteering Events

Book: <http://doodle.com/poll/xphqrqthfv6axiaq>

Seashore Family Fun - Community Beach Hut events (2hrs):

- **Tue 26 July, 1pm Beach Games - Margate**

- **Sat 30 July, 1pm Games/Bubbles - Ramsgate**

Seaweeds & Secrets

- **Tue 2 Aug, 6pm (2hrs) Eastcliffe, Rams' - FREE for Coastal Wardens, if you book here**

Water Gala, Wed. 17 Aug (2hrs):

- **3pm Beach Scavenge**

- **5:30pm Safari**

Fri 19 Aug: Joss Bay

- **Shoresearch, 6pm**

- **BBQ, 8pm**

Sat 17 Sept: Great British Beach Clean (2.5hrs)

- **10.00: Plum Pudding Beach Clean, Birchington**

- **14.30: Pegwell Bay Beach Clean, Cliffsend**