

NEKMPA Coastal Wardens e-News January to March 2016

Dear Coastal Wardens,

'HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016'

Please find the first activities for 2016 outlined below. Your feedback and comments from the 2015 Annual Forum is currently being taken into account for the rest of the 2016 programme and will include further training, research, practical work, presentations, public events & educational work that you can chose to attend, or help run, this year.



1. NE Kent Coast – Activity Surveys

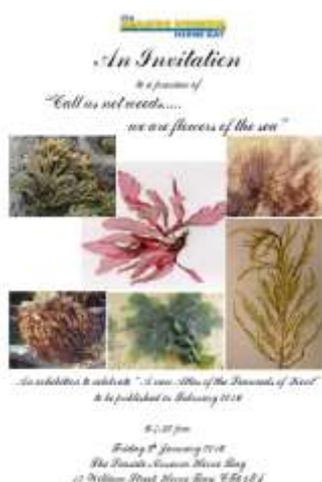
The monthly surveys coming up:

	Survey 1 (every 1 st full weekend)	Survey 2 (every 3 rd full weekend)
January	Sat 2 Low tide 11:15am	Sat 16 Low tide 10:43am
February	Sat 13 High tide 14:50pm	Sat 27 High tide 14:14pm
March	Sat 5 High tide 8:29am	Sun 20 High tide 9:52am
April	Sat 2 Low tide 14:03pm	Sun 17 High tide 09:28am

Note: Ramsgate Tides shown (For High Tides, add 7mins = Broadstairs, add 45 mins for [Margate](#). For [Herne Bay & Whitstable](#) - check local tide tables! [\[hyperlink\]](#))

Trainings and Events Listings:

January



Special invite to preview the exhibition & forthcoming Atlas of the Seaweeds of Kent

'Call Us Not Weeds... We Are Flowers of the Sea' (Exhibition)

Fri 8 January 2016, 6pm (1.5hrs)

The Seaside Museum, 12 William Street, Herne Bay CT6 5EJ

This special invitation has come from Ian Tittley – who many of you will know from our excellent 'Seaweeds & their Secrets' walks and talks – and is a chance to see the an exhibition and the forthcoming atlas of the Seaweeds of Kent that is due out in February – and is culmination of many years of studying seaweed distribution around the county.

NEKMPA Turnstone Briefing 2016

Sat 9 January 2016, 10am – 1pm (3hrs)
Drum Room, Droit House, Margate (CT9 1JD)

The Turnstone population is one of only two species found in internationally important numbers within the NEKMPA and so is used as our 'indicator' of how coastal birds are faring here. The last 3 year's surveys have indicated a huge decline in the local population. Whilst this may be due to variety of reasons, it is well known that we have a long outstanding issue of people or dogs disturbing them and not allowing enough 'rest' time within their local environment.

Please register to attend this briefing workshop for helping monitoring our local Turnstone population run in conjunction with the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust (SBBOT) on behalf of Natural England. Volunteers are welcome from NEKMPA Coastal wardens, RSPB local group and SBBOT!

Volunteer help required through January-February in up to THREE parts, which can be allocated:

i) DISTURBANCE STUDY: These two sessions need to run for 2 hours over one high tide in **January to the end of February**. You will be given information/survey form and allocated a roost site to monitor.

ii) COORDINATED COUNTS: These sessions are vital to help establish the turnstone population on TWO coordinated count dates within the allocated survey sections – which are likely to be on:

- **Sat. 23 January** High Tide: Rams' 11.02am (4.9m); Margate 11.36 (4.6m); Herne Bay 11.45
- **Sat. 20 February** High Tide: Rams' 10.08am (4.6m) ; Margate 10.39 (4.4m); Herne Bay 10:42

Also find out how you can help to raise awareness of turnstone roosts - meeting beach users at high tides during this time.

Book online: {hyperlink; or 'copy & paste' link below into your browser}
<https://secure.thanet.gov.uk/officeforms/Booking-Book.ofml?ResourceID=250&sc=74ad4467>

Practical: CoastBuster Tasks (Non-native marine species project)

Fri 15 Jan 8.30am Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

Sat 30 Jan. 8.30am Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

February

Practical: CoastBuster Tasks

Mon 15 Feb 9.45am Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

Mon 29 Feb 8.15am Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

Turnstone – Second Co-ordinated Count :

- **Sat. 20 February** High Tide: Rams' 10.08am (4.6m) ; Margate 10.39 (4.4m); Herne Bay 10:42
(See details above)

NEKMPA Turnstone Awareness (for around 1hr at high tides, during daylight hours).



YOU CAN HELP raise awareness of the turnstone roosts in your 'patch' - if you have turnstone roosts present.

Promote the options to reduce disturbance to coastal users around high tides (we recommend that people avoid roost sites from 1.5 hours before to 0.5 hours after HT). Flyers can be handed out, but please only engage if people would like to speak with you, then you can point out the roost sites in your area, as people that may not be aware of turnstone trying to find somewhere to 'rest'.

The flyer can be printed in B&W to cut down on costs (or collect from TCP either at training session, or order/collect from us at the council offices).

DBS CHECKS: Educational Volunteering & Seashore Safaris If you would like to volunteer to assist visiting school or community groups on educational site visits to the coast in 2016, then please let us know – as we can arrange for your DBS check to be processed (takes about 6-8 weeks).

It is also recommended for volunteers that can assist for more than a couple of Seashore Safaris – though not essential, as parents are always present with the children at these events.

March

Peek Under the Waves - Walpole Tidal Pool Draining Session

Tue 15 March, 9am (2hrs), Walpole Tidal Pool, Cliftonville

A chance to look at the marine wildlife within one of Thanet's largest artificial rockpools, without having to dive! Come along to explore for hidden gems at this spring 'tidal pool maintenance' session. Please note: This session is also open to members of the Walpole Tidal Pool Swimmers Group.

Note: Please check emails the night before the event, as these events have a high chance of cancellation if the sea or wind conditions are not suitable for maintenance.

Book to let us know you can attend – opens Feb: {hyperlink; or 'copy & paste' link below into your browser}
<https://secure.thanet.gov.uk/officeforms/Booking-Book.ofml?ResourceID=250&sc=74ad4467>

Practical: CoastBuster Tasks

Tue 15 Mar 9.15am Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

Tue 29 Mar. 8.45am Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

Great Eggcase & Scavenger Hunts (Volunteer Opportunity)

Volunteer at these **public events** by helping participants look out for clues of life in our seas and the egg cases of sharks and rays - and then help to create a marine art masterpiece on the beach over the school Easter break. These hunts last for 45 minutes with another 45 minutes of 'art-time'. These events are particularly suitable for 4-11s.

- **Tue 29 March, 11am - Margate Main Sands (CT9 1XN)**
Meet by Coastal Community Beach Hut (opp. Arlington House)
- **Wed 30 March, 11am - Viking Bay, Broadstairs (CT10 1EU)**
Meet: outside old Broadstairs Harbour Master Office (opp. Tartar Frigate pub)
- **Thur 31 March, 11am - Ramsgate Main Sands (CT11 8LP)**
Meet by the Needle (Obelisk opp. Belgian Cafe)

Let us know at: thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk if you are able to help at any of these events.

Please plan to arrive on the day ½ hour before the event is scheduled to begin.

A DBS is recommended if you are able to help at all three events (otherwise not essential, as adults have to accompany children at these events)

Note: Public bookings open Feb. online at the website: nekmpa.org.uk

NOTE: English Coastal Path: Folkestone to Ramsgate - to Open soon!

Pegwell Bay – part of Kent's largest National Nature Reserve (NNR - will be visited by 'Dorset Dogs' to help raise awareness of the new access restrictions to reduce disturbance to the mudflats and saltmarsh of Pegwell Bay associated with the new English Coastal Path that is due to open in Spring 2016! Western Undercliff, Ramsgate and Cliffsend **Dates- TBC**

April

'Capturing the Coast' Training session for NEKMPA Coastal Wardens & volunteers

Mon. 4 April, 11am (6hrs) – – Droit House, Margate Harbour CT9 1JD

This is a brilliant opportunity to join the largest marine citizen science project ever started in the UK that starts in 2016! This 'CoCoast' training session will enable you to be equipped for recording your chosen small set of marine wildlife – so you can carry out a transect survey for them at different sites around the NE Kent coast in your own time at low tide. Places are limited – so first come, first served! Light lunch and refreshments will be included.

Booking will be directly with CoCoast: {Link to be provided closer to the date!}

e-Xtra e-Xtra e-Xtra – 'Current News':

For more up-to-date current news & information, please look at our social media links:



www.facebook.com/nekmpa1



twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj

This includes many more snippets of interest – including reports of events, activities and sightings! The facebook site is open to public view (so you do not need to be a member of facebook to view these pages!)



On these pages you can see images of recent events – such as the image from the 2015 Annual Forum – to all sorts of news: links about latest wildlife strandings, such as Barrel Jellyfish throughout December 2015 - Tony Ovenden has recorded over 100 Barrel Jellyfish and one dead Trigger Fish in Sandwich Bay (see above); the latest beach litter picks; how to get £25 reward for finding a fish tag; what birds are most threatened; how long it takes for litter to decay.... and so much more! On Twitter, we link up with ‘CoCoast’ to show ‘Rock Shore Species of the Day’ to show more life from our shore.

For further details, please go online to: nekmpa.org.uk for background information. This includes an outline of the 2016 events under ‘What’s On’

Your own page – with links to online reporting is at:

nekmpa.org.uk/coastalwardens

(Please note: this page will be updated with the new 2016 survey dates in Mid-January: so use new 2016 dates given)

I hope 2016 will be a really good year for you – and look forward to hearing from you or catching up at an event soon!

With thanks,

Tony



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