

NEKMPA Coastal Wardens e-News

April to June 2016

Dear Coastal Wardens,

Here's your Spring e-News to keep you up to date with current progress on our activities and events.

You should have received your 2016 programme at the beginning of March – and this updates the programme's outline plan of training, research, practical work, presentations, public events & educational work that you can choose to attend, or help with over the next 3 months. April's 'Capturing Our Coast' & new Coastal Warden Introductory Course are already fully booked!

Please note: the IFCA event has now moved back a week to **Tue 17 May** (than shown in original programme) & other dates are now confirmed.

IMPORTANT: We are currently experiencing issues on the links to your webpage, so please save this direct page reference link as a 'favourite' online for you to access:

<http://nekmpa.org.uk/coastal-warden-survey/>

We also have a few gaps appearing in activity survey records - so please let us know if you are unable to complete surveys, or let me know if you would like to 'step down' from volunteering which would allow new volunteers to help adopt bays in their area.

Recent events:



Great Eggcase & Scavenger Hunts

Doggie Pit-stops/walks

Walpole Tidal Pool - Shoresearch

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

(These are 'open public pages' on facebook and twitter accounts – so that even non-facebook members can view & keep up to date!)



www.facebook.com/nekmpa1



twitter.com/ThanetCoastPro

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)
April	Sat 2 Low tide 14:03pm	Sun 17 High tide 09:28am
May	Sun 8 Low tide 08:17am	Sat 21 High tide 12:17pm
June	Sat 4 Low tide 18:40pm	Sat 18 Low tide 17:55pm
July	Sat 2 Low tide 17:26pm	Sat 16 Low tide 16:27pm

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:

April

'Capturing Our Coast' Training – for NEKMPA Coastal Wardens & other 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 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.

a) Registration with CoCoast is essential: <http://capturingourcoast.co.uk/user/register>

b) Then, please reserve your place for 4 April by booking: *{hyperlink; or 'copy & paste' link below into your browser}* *{be quick, places are limited and course is for NEW CoCoast Volunteers & Coastal Wardens!}*

<https://secure.thanet.gov.uk/officeforms/Booking-Book.ofml?ResourceID=250&sc=74ad4467> **FULLY BOOKED!**

Seashell Ecology & Identification *{Wildwood - external course}*

Sun 17 April, 10:30am-4pm - Reculver Visitor Centre

Discover the secret lives of our local seashells and how to identify them, plus go on a visit to a local beach to start your own seashell reference collection. Own transport required for off-site visit. **£30** per person

Book: courses@wildwoodtrust.org

Seasearch Observer Course - for divers *{Kent WT}*

Sat 23 April, 9:30am-5:30pm - Reculver Visitor Centre

Introductory one-day course for divers new to marine life and recording. Ideal for those new to Seasearch surveying or keen to refresh their skills, the course helps to recognise and record habitat and marine life. To request booking form: contact Fiona White: fiona.white@kentwildlife.org.uk (01622 662012). **Cost: £45** (Free for refreshers)

2016 Seasearch Dive Surveys *(Kent WT: See 23 April): Cost of boat dives: £40 per day - 2 dives (subsidised by Kent Seasearch)*

April – Sun 24 *(shore dive)*

May - Sat 14, Sun 15, Mon 30

August - Sat 13

September - Sun 4, Sun 11

Coastal Warden 'Support Team' discussion!

Thur 28 April, 6.30pm (2hrs) – Botany Bay Hotel, Kingsgate

This session is restarting the informal 'team meetings' of Coastal Wardens that can help further – to assist the running of the NEKMPA Coastal Warden scheme (similar to previous informal catch-ups in 2011-13). The meeting will be covering an informal agenda to discuss the current 2016 programme and areas for improvement for potential volunteer input/support opportunities – such as social media, website, education, publicity, events, surveys, to this year's Annual Forum.

Book here *(hyperlink):* <http://doodle.com/poll/77k6z7b25srwzegg>

NEKMPA Coastal Warden - Introductory Training

(Coastal Warden modules 1 & 2)

Sat 30 April, 10am (5hrs) – Droit House, Margate Harbour

This is the first introduction module for new Coastal Wardens. We will take you through the history of the North East Kent Marine Protected Area and the management scheme, your role as a coastal warden and how you can help through activity surveys and incident reporting. A light lunch and refreshments will be served.

Booking Essential: NEW WARDENS ONLY *{hyperlink; or 'copy & paste' link below into your browser}*

<https://secure.thanet.gov.uk/officeforms/Booking-Book.ofml?ResourceID=250&sc=74ad4467> **FULLY BOOKED!**

Two or three Coastal Warden volunteers can help new volunteers on this introductory training event:

Please volunteer at: *{hyperlink}* <http://doodle.com/poll/77k6z7b25srwzegg>

May

Spring morning walk for migrating birds

Sun 1 May, 9am (2hrs) – Pegwell Country Park

Guided walk with Ken Chapman (Secretary of Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory) mostly looking out for newly-arrived migrating birds, on the marshland, shoreline and scrub of the Country Park – including a range of

warblers such as Blackcap and Whitethroat and a whole range of other birds, plus spring flowers on route! The walking is easy on level and hard footpaths. Waterproof clothing and sensible footwear are essential. If you can bring a pair of binoculars, that would be very useful. Public toilets on-site. Note: Car Park charges apply. **Meet:** Pegwell Bay Country Park car park, Sandwich Road, Cliffsend.

Book here {[hyperlink](http://doodle.com/poll/7tvxh8wxt5rb6hqy)}: <http://doodle.com/poll/7tvxh8wxt5rb6hqy>

Seaweed identification workshop - Reculver {Kent WT}

Sun. 8 May, full day (times-tbc)

Workshop led by algae expert Ian Tittley, Natural History Museum, that will introduce & help you identify some of the seaweeds that we commonly find around our shores. Includes the chance to have a go at seaweed pressing!

Book: fiona.white@kentwildlife.org.uk Free – but places limited!

Meet: Reculver Country Park Visitor Centre

The Kent & Essex IFCA in NE Kent {presentation}

Tue 17 May, 6.45 - 8.30pm - Droit House, Margate Harbour CT9 1JD

Guest speaker Tom Clegg, will talk about the work of the Kent & Essex IFCA that was set up after the 'Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009' and cover their workincluding how volunteer Coastal Wardens can help! **Also, artist Rachel Taylor will cover her exciting collaboration project – see 'When the Lights go Out'** (*below)

Book here if you would like to attend the talk {[hyperlink](http://doodle.com/poll/7tvxh8wxt5rb6hqy)}:

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

***'When the Lights go out' - Bioluminescence Public Engagement** {art/science project}

TBC – Workshop, May/June

Local public artist Rachel Taylor is collaborating with Tom Clegg, local marine biologist and IFCA officer; to deliver an innovative and engaging workshop centred on bioluminescence within marine wildlife. Combining marine biology and art, participants will be sampling and exploring plankton samples, photographing them using handmade microscopes. Interacting with bioluminescent plankton and through hands on art activities, the participants will collectively make a public artwork which will be installed in an outdoor location along Thanet's coast.

Call out for Coastal Warden Volunteers! We are seeking volunteers who would be interested in guiding the public on coastal exploration walks which will include engaging the public in collecting plankton samples from the sea. Working with Rachel and Tom, you will devise the route and content of the walks which will then lead on to the bespoke hands on sci-art workshop.

Please register your interest to help on this art / science project {[hyperlink](http://doodle.com/poll/7tvxh8wxt5rb6hqy)}:

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

Seaweeds and their Secrets (Open to the public)

Sat 28 May, 9.30am (2hrs) – Walpole Bay, Cliftonville

Walk and talk with Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum)

The Thanet Coast's chalk reef provides a perfect substrate for algae communities. Join Ian Tittley to find out everything you would like to know about seaweed, their uses and properties on this outdoor talk. Please wear appropriate footwear suitable for walking on the chalk reef & rockpools. Suitable for adults (14+).

Meet: Walpole Bay, Cliftonville (CT9 3HF)

Public booking £3pp: www.nekmpa.org.uk {from April}

Coastal Wardens can go FREE, but you will need to Pre-Book your place here {[hyperlink](http://doodle.com/poll/7tvxh8wxt5rb6hqy)}:

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

June

WORLD OCEANS DAY Wed 8 June

The theme is *Healthy oceans, healthy planet.*

<http://worldoceansday.org>

NEKMPA 'Non-Native Species Control' Training Day

for the 2016/17 practical sessions

Monday 20 June, 10am (4.5hrs) – Thanet Council Offices, CT9 1XZ

Training session led by Willie McKnight will cover everything you need to know in order to become a member of this crack practical task team 'CoastBusters'. You will then be able to help out on the 2016-17 practical tasks. Places are limited – so first come, first served! A light refreshment will be included.

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

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

Note: the Shorelife id course has been postponed from June to July, but **booking are now OPEN**
– but please **change dropdown menu for ‘Show’** to next **“6 months”** (& click ‘Show Availability’) **to see this event:**

Shorelife identification: investigating life along the shore {Coastal Warden Module 3}
Friday 15 July, 10am (7.5hrs), Droit House, Margate harbour / & beach

Kent Wildlife Trust Special Study Day for Coastal Wardens

Presentations and practical training to explore the variety of life between the tides, and techniques to equip you to contribute to surveying Marine Protected Areas. Led by Fiona White & Bryony Chapman (Kent WT).

Cost: This course is being offered **FREE as part of your NEKMPA Coastal Warden Scheme** (and is also open to volunteers interested in becoming ‘Guardians of the Deep’ from around Kent) thanks to HLF funding.

Booking Essential {*hyperlink; or ‘copy & paste’ link below into your browser:*}

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

(Note: will be put up when date confirmed by April)

e-Xtra e-Xtra e-Xtra – For ‘Current News’:

Get ready to book next event (Opens May/June):

Marine Mammal Watching Excursion – Sandwich Riverbus

Sat 9 July, 5pm (2hrs) £20pp – just got cheaper!

Book & Pay online essential:

<https://secure.thanet.gov.uk/officeforms/Booking-Book.ofml?ResourceID=250&sc=74ad4467> (Opens May/June!)

For more up-to-date current news & information:



www.facebook.com/nekmpa1



twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj

For background information and public events, please go online to: nekmpa.org.uk

New website pages under “Projects” <http://nekmpa.org.uk/projects-and-issues>

includes:

Thanet Coastal Path – has links to new English Coastal Path: Folkestone to Ramsgate (Opens July 2016)

Guardians of the Deep

Capturing Our Coast

Dog Walking on the Thanet Coast

I hope that you’re well and enjoying keeping a lookout along your patch of coastline!

Remember to also help record any “incidents” – such as commercial collecting of shellfish on the coast – Online! I look forward to hearing from you, or catching up at an event soon!

With thanks,

Tony



Thanet Coast
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