

NEKMPA Coastal Wardens e-News

Oct to Dec 2016

Dear Coastal Wardens,

Welcome to the Autumn e-News !

The last few months over the summer has been an incredibly busy time, with a large number of public events – see a few of the images below (more on facebook/twitter!)

We now reach our quietest quarter of year, but also the most important as we need your help to reflect upon the year and agree upon new activities and training that you would like included within the new 2017 programme - at our Annual Forum gathering on 30 November 2016. **Please help us by sending in any suggestions for 2017 to thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk before 5 November to start things off** (include your favourites or new ones). Alternatively you can sign up to attend an informal catch-up to help provide your feedback on how the summer's public events went, & also help plan this year's form (**6 Oct**)

THIS WEEKEND! Apart from the **Saturday morning Activity survey**, we have an **Autumn bird walk** with Ken Chapman (Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust) looking out for migration on **Sunday at 9am** - so **please** let me know if you can make it by **using the autumn doodlepoll asap!**

<http://doodle.com/poll/webev529k8ic3qgm>

Also starting this weekend, there is an invite from our '*Capturing Our Coast*' partners for individuals to look out for the sex lives of lugworm – on an **Autumn 'spermwatch'** – see current news! We would people keep a closer within the sandy part of their bays – and particularly the Pegwell Bay sands/mudflats – Use your 'incident report' link to notify us of your first observation in your patch!

In the meantime, the next new Coastal warden introductory is now FULLY booked on 12 October – so we welcome new volunteers & hope that some of you will be happy to 'buddy-up' with new wardens so that they can get use to carrying out their surveys, and completing incident reports in the future – and will circulate a new contact sheet in late October!

Keep a look out: Over the autumn, we particularly want you to help by looking out for:

- Lugworm breeding – as mentioned!
- Shellfish collecting / harvesting – use 'incident form'
- Turnstone – our feathered friends are back & so we need to establish their main and secondary roost sites in your area. If any new ones develop – please let us know: (Some are changing – for example, warden reports show that they are now using the groyne at the western end of Minnis Bay & so we will need to increase signage in this area).

NE Kent Coast – Activity Surveys

The monthly surveys coming up:

	Survey 1 (every 1 st full weekend)	Survey 2 (every 3 rd full weekend)
October	Sat 1 High tide 12:39pm	Sat 15 High tide 11:17am
November	Sat 5 High tide 14:23pm	Sat 19 High tide 14:50pm
December	Sat 3 High tide 13:30pm	Sun 18 High tide 14:34pm
2017	tbc	tbc

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:

October

Spermwatch – starts 1 & 2 Oct: Capturing Our Coast (see below)

Autumn morning walk for migrating birds

Sun 2 October, 9am (2hrs) – Pegwell Bay Country Park

Guided walk with **Ken Chapman** (Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory) mostly looking for newly-arrived migrating birds, both on the marshland and shoreline and in the scrub and thickets around the Country Park. The walking is easy on level, hard footpaths and should take about two hours. Waterproof clothing and sensible footwear are essential. Please bring a pair of binoculars or telescope if you have any. Public toilets on-site.

Meet: Pegwell Bay Country Park Car Park, Sandwich Road, Cliffsend – **car park charges apply!**

Book: <http://doodle.com/poll/webev529k8ic3ggm>

Informal meeting: ‘Summer Events Feedback’ & ‘Annual Forum planning’

Wed 5 October: 6:30pm (2hrs)

This is an informal ‘catch-up’ and a chance for volunteers to discuss feedback on this year’s summer events and activities, and how we can improve upon them for next year! The second part is a chance to discuss and help plan this year’s Annual Forum on 30 November. All Volunteers/Coastal Wardens welcome. Tea and cakes will be provided!!!

Meet: **Droit House, Margate harbour CT9 1JD** {Parking free on lower promenade behind Winter Gardens}

Book: <http://doodle.com/poll/webev529k8ic3ggm>

‘Clean Up Session’ – clear and tidy up after summer activities!

Thur 6 October: 2pm (3hrs)

Just a **two or three volunteers are needed** to help on a very mucky job to help clean & store away the Thanet Coast Project’s various equipment following summer events and beach cleans! This requires very old clothing and entails lifting, moving boxes and equipment onto storage shelves and is a dirty work where participants should not be afraid of spiders! “Many Thanks” to Julie Perrin who has already started cleaning the safari equipment & sorting out bags, but needs just about two more volunteers to help complete the task!

Meet: **Lock Up Garages, Hartsdown, Margate** {Directions will be given!!!}

Book: <http://doodle.com/poll/webev529k8ic3ggm>

Thanet Coastal Warden - Introductory Training

Wed 12 October, 10am (5hrs) – Austen Room, Thanet Council Offices, Margate CT9 1XZ

This training session is for new Coastal Wardens and covers module 1 and 2. We will take you through the features of international importance, the history of the North East Kent Marine Protected Area, 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: NOW FULLY BOOKED!

November

Climate Change on the Coast (presentation) = **Cancelled**

Autumn Beach Clean Series 2015 – 2-8 Nov: Surfers Against Sewage

Peek Under the Waves - Walpole Tidal Pool draining viewing

Wed 16 November: 06:45AM (2hrs) - Walpole Tidal Pool, Cliftonville

This is an early morning chance to view within the tidal pool to see what marine life gems will be found this autumn. Check doodlepoll to see other Coastal wardens attending – and remember safety first – wear Wellington boots and wind/rain proof clothing and take special care whilst walking on the slippery chalk reef seaweeds, sticky muds and extra slippery tidal wall. Not any wildlife finds and send to our Twitter or Facebook accounts!!! **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: <http://doodle.com/poll/webev529k8ic3ggm>

12th Annual Coastal Warden Forum

Wed 30 November, 6:45pm (3hrs) – Drum Room, Droit House, Margate Harbour, CT9 1JD

Please keep this essential date in your diary – it is your chance to come together with fellow coastal wardens to review the year and provide feedback for the future. Invitations will be sent nearer to the date, detailing this year's theme and guest speakers.

Booking Essential:

<http://doodle.com/poll/webev529k8ic3qgm>

December

'Capturing Our Coast' Training – postponed. We will be running two courses for CoCoast in 2017. Further information available at: <http://capturingourcoast.co.uk/user/register>

Only 'Activity Surveys' & 'Coastbusting' until the New Year!

e-Xtra e-Xtra e-Xtra:

'Current News'

e-Xtra e-Xtra e-Xtra

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

Some recent summer events 2016:



Marine mammal Watching Boat Trip 9 July 2016



Shorelife Identification Training 15 July 2016



Little Cuttle



Stalked Jellyfish



England Coast Path launch (Camber- Ramsgate) 19 July

Summer Seashore Safaris July 2016



More Summerr Seashore Safaris! Aug 2016

Safaris linkled to Ramsgate Festival July 2016



Seaweeds & their Secrets – Ramsgate 2 Aug 2016

Broadstairs Water Gala activities – 17 Aug 2016



Oceans of Light – Turner Contemporary 19-20 Aug

Two-Minute beach cleans launch 19 Aug 2016



Summer Safaris August 2016



Nearly last Summer Seashore Safari - 2016



More Safari activities in September activities at



Wheels & Fins Festival 10-11 Sept 2016



Great British Beach Cleans at – Plum pudding



& Pegwell Bay – 17 Sept 2016

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/ThanetCoastProj

OTHER NEWS:

Spermwatch

Starts with a nationwide launch over 1st & 2nd October 2016.



The banner features a collage of images: a person surveying a beach, a survey form, a lugworm, a couple holding a survey form, and a close-up of a lugworm. Text on the banner includes: 'Spermwatch - Help us survey our UK beaches for signs of lugworm reproduction', 'Get involved by surveying your local beach How? Visit www.capturingourcoast.co.uk/spermwatch', and survey dates: 'When? 30th September-4th October, 15th-19th October, 30th October-3rd November and 13th-17th November. Get in touch: cocoast@port.ac.uk @CapturingRCoast'. Logos for 'CAPTURING OUR COAST' and 'heritage lottery fund LOTTERY FUNDED' are also present.

Surveys then take place until late autumn.

Any member of the public can take part by surveying any sandy beach around the UK. People are asked to look out for the presence of **lugworm sperm puddles** in simple time searches over the spring tides.

Survey instructions and the link for data uploading can be found on the website: <http://www.capturingourcoast.co.uk/spermwatch>

Please do look out and let us know what you find – report when present & link to uson:

Twitter

Facebook

Or use your 'Incident report' link to tell us location and day when you first see it starting!

Spermwatch has also made it into the [independent!](#)

New England Coast Path launched July 2016 Includes new Access restrictions around Pegwell & Sandwich Bay NNR (signage as below/right).

<http://nekmpa.org.uk/media/3372317/2016-A3-Pegwell-Access-Sign-WesternUndercliff.pdf>



Discover Thanet's Coast

Extra events & activities have been run with the Local Thanet RSPB walks at Foreness Point (see right) & Tony Swandale walks at Pegwell & Sandwich Bay NNR this year with support from Coastal Community Fund. For further details for what's On & about the Coastal Community Beach Huts at Margate and Ramsgate: <http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/thanetcoast>



Did you see: **Margate's Clifftop Wander** – and hear about the **Margate Coastal Park** {*hyperlink for more info*}

<http://www.margatecoastalpark.org/about>

Did you See: **the pre-Great British Beach Clean** at Pegwell Bay with Jeff & Caroline Tompsett sterling work for prime time [BBC viewing!](#)

Or [Terry's Smart\(ie\) information?](#)



Can you spare 2 minutes to help?

Find out if a 2 Minute Beach Cleans 'station' is near you – as you can use of promote this as a way that anyone can help. There are 15 around the coast with bay inspectors & concessionaires from Birchington, Westgate, Margate, Kingsgate, Broadstairs to Ramsgate. Supported by Thanet Coast Project & Thanet Council.



Looking Out:

We've had a few sightings of Asian Shore Crabs (*Hemigrapsus* spp) – particularly this one found at a Seashore Safari www.nonnativespecies.org/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1407 (risk assessment)

We've reported oh these in the past (2014) but would like to know if you discover any on your walks around the coast!

Thanks to two of our youngest and best volunteers over the last couple of years for all their enthusiastic and superb help – Toby Humby & Greg Bessant (aka Toby Goby & Greg Guarnard!) as they have both secured places in which to take forward their interests into full time study of Zoology and Natural History. We all wish you both a great time studying and a life-time of enjoyment ahead!



Coastal Wardens only:

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

Please do 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.

Remember to record any "incidents" – such as 'dumping or rubbish' or 'commercial collecting of shellfish' on the coast, or any new (first for the year) or unusual 'wildlife sightings' - online!

I hope you're well & hope to catch up with you soon!

With thanks,

Tony



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www.facebook.com/nekmpa1
twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj



SHORT CUT for BOOKINGS – Autumn 2016: <http://doodle.com/poll/webev529k8ic3qgm>

Please indicate if you would like to attend:

Sun 2 Oct: 9am (2hrs)

Morning Walk for Migrating Birds

[CW EVENT]

Pegwell Country Park

Wed 5 Oct: 6.30pm (2hrs)

Volunteers 'Summer Events' Feedback & 'Annual Forum Planning'

[Get-together/CW PLANNING]

*Droit Hse, Margate Harbour

Thur 6 Oct 2pm (3hrs)

'Clean Up' session – after the summer activities

[PRACTICAL] **Only two or three Volunteers** required!

Hartsdown Lock-Up (*we will get back in contact over directions!*)

Wed 16 Nov: 6.45AM

Walpole Tidal Pool Draining – just before sunrise

[VIEWING]

Wed. 30 Nov: 6.45-9.30pm

Coastal Warden's Annual Forum

[CW EVENT/+]

* Droit Hse, Margate harbour