

NEKMPA  
**Coastal Wardens e-News**  
**January to March 2017**

Dear Coastal Wardens,

# ‘HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017’

Please find the first activities for 2017 outlined below. Your feedback and comments from the 2016 Annual Forum is currently being taken into account for the rest of the 2016 programme and will include further training, research, practical work, talks, public events & educational work that you can chose to attend or help run!

There is no turnstone monitoring this year - but there are two ‘First Aid’ training courses available in February for volunteers with priority for those of you that help out on practical tasks & events

Look out for the early start to the New Year – Shoresearch at Epply Bay on Saturday 7 January!



**Annual Forum 30 Nov.2016**  
 (Feedback already circulated!)

## 1. NE Kent Coast – Activity Surveys

The monthly surveys coming up:

<b>2017</b>	<b>Survey 1</b> <small>(every 2<sup>nd</sup> full weekend: Jan to Apr)</small>	<b>Survey 2</b> <small>(every 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend: Jan to Apr)</small>
<b>January</b>	<b>Sat 14</b> <b>High tide 12:44 (5.1)</b>	<b>Sat 28</b> <b>High tide 11:50 (4.9)</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Sat 11</b> <b>High tide 11:48 (5.0)</b>	<b>Sat 25</b> <b>High tide 10:50 (4.9)</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Sat 11</b> <b>High tide 10:53 (4.9)</b>	<b>Sat 25</b> <b>High tide 09:38 (4.6)</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Sat 8</b> <b>High tide 10:51 (4.7)</b>	<b>Sat 22</b> <b>High tide 09:28 (4.3)</b>

**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

### Shoresearch – Epple Bay, Birchington

- **Sat 7 January 2017, 10.30am (3hrs)**



A good opportunity to get a blast of fresh air and work off some of the seasonal excesses! The sandy shore slopes down to the exposed chalk platform which is our survey area. The plan is to survey to the east of the bay - wave-cut chalk platform with rockpools & gullies, slippery algae and areas of soft sand. Low tide is at around 12:49pm, so will be following outgoing tide. Please wear sturdy waterproof walking boots or wellies, and bring weatherproof clothing - waterproof trousers are very

useful for keeping out the wind and when kneeling down, even if it's not raining. Layers are a good idea as well as a scarf, woolly hat and gloves as likely to be very cold!

**Leader** Fiona White (07779 657573) Kent Wildlife Trust

**Meet:** Epple Bay Avenue CT7 9HU by slope to the beach (TR307698)

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

**9 Jan 13.30pm** Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

**18 Jan. 8.30am** Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

These practical sessions are currently led by volunteers with guidance from Natural England and will be tackling running Pacific Oyster control session within the section of coastline between Ramsgate Harbour towards Pegwell Bay and the National Nature Reserve.

Any further volunteers can register their interest to get involved – please do get in touch, as we are likely to run a new 'Coastbuster Training Session' when enough people come forward - possibly May/June.

## February

#### **Practical: CoastBuster Tasks**

**4 Feb 8.25am** Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

**17 Feb 8.20am** Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

### Shoresearch – Newgate Gap, Cliftonville

- **Sat 4 February, am (3hrs)**

Another chance to get out in your winter layers to keep warm and explore and survey the superb chalk reef along the Margate coastline. Low tide is at 11.21 so details will be sent to you about the start time to follow the ebb tide if you enrol via [Fiona.White@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:Fiona.White@kentwildlife.org.uk) Please wear sturdy waterproof walking boots or wellies, and bring weatherproof clothing - waterproof trousers are useful for keeping out the wind and when kneeling down. Layers are a good idea as well as a scarf, woolly hat and gloves as likely to be very cold!

**Leader:** Fiona White (07779 657573) Kent Wildlife Trust

**Meet:** TBC

### **First Aid Training – for volunteers on the NE Kent MPA East Kent College, Broadstairs Campus**

- **Wed 8 February** – 6 places
- **Friday 10 February** – 6 places

This one day "First Aid at work" training course is run for Coastal Volunteers/Wardens with priority to volunteers that help out on practical tasks (eg Coastbusters), running Beach Cleans, or helping at our educational or public events programme (eg Seashore Safaris). It is a full day "First Aid at Work" Course that will be delivered by Andy Webb of Kent Surf School at the East Kent College Broadstairs, and will cover many aspects including emergency first aid cover and so will be a great skill to have. This course is free to volunteers, as we have secured funding from the Coastal Communities Fund project at Thanet Council and usually costs £55 per person. The course is available for 6 volunteers per day, so please could you register your interest and date preference at this [online doodlepoll](http://doodle.com/poll/fp5x8ha89wxvy7p3):

<http://doodle.com/poll/fp5x8ha89wxvy7p3>

## 'Capturing the Coast' Training session for NEKMPA Coastal Wardens & Volunteers

**TBC - Sat. 25 February, 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. This 'CoCoast' training session will enable you to be equipped for recording your chosen small set of marine wildlife – so you can survey for them at your own bay or different sites around the NE Kent coast in your own time at low tide. Places are limited and shared with other volunteers the the region – so first come, first served! Light lunch and refreshments will be included.

**Please book:**

a) directly with **CoCoast**: {<http://capturingourcoast.co.uk/user/register>}, &

b) on our doodlepoll: <http://doodle.com/poll/fp5x8ha89wxvy7p3>

**Note:** The event details – and confirmation of this time/date – will be sent out to those registering online.

## March

### Great British Beach Spring Clean!

**Fri 3 to Sun. 5 March** – various locations

# Heroes Wanted.

It's time to clean up our country!  
March 3-5, 2017



**Why not help on a community group clean up  
– or run your own 2-minute clean?**

This spring campaign is coordinated by Keep Britain Tidy – click on poster ([hyperlink](#)) to get to their website for information and to register!

Thanet Council is running some 'deep cleans' and is supporting local groups running clean-ups where possible. Keep a look out on the 'What's On' section of our website for more information about local cleans – so please do let us know the time and location of a clean if you decide to run one!

### Peek Under the Waves - Walpole Tidal Pool Draining Session

**TBC - March (2-3hrs), Walpole Tidal Pool, Cliftonville**

As spring approaches we have a chance to view the marine wildlife within one of Thanet's largest artificial rockpools. Come along to explore for our gems at this spring 'tidal pool maintenance' session.

**Book:** <http://doodle.com/poll/fp5x8ha89wxvy7p3> (15 March is NOT Correct date, but left so that you can register your interest to attend!) **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.

#### Practical: CoastBuster Tasks

**6 Mar 10.10am** Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

**20 Mar. 9.00am** Western Undercliff, Ramsgate

## April – advanced notice!

### 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 4 April, 11am - Margate Main Sands (CT9 1XN)**  
Meet: Coastal Community Beach Hut (opp. Arlington House)
- **Wed 5 April, 11am - Viking Bay, Broadstairs (CT10 1EU)**  
Meet: outside old Broadstairs Harbour Master Office (opp. Tartar Frigate pub)
- **Thur 6 April, 11am - Ramsgate Main Sands (CT11 8LP)**  
Meet: By the 'Needle' or Obelisk (opp. The Belgian Cafe)

**To HELP us run the event, please let us know at:** <http://doodle.com/poll/fp5x8ha89wxvy7p3>

**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](http://nekmpa.org.uk)

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/nekmpa1)



[twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj](https://twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj)

The facebook site is open to public view (so you do not need to be a member of facebook to view these pages!)

Also remember, we have a ‘closed group’ facebook page only for Coastal wardens – so you can share, ask questions and talk only other Coastal wardens online

**\*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 2017, 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.

## NEKMPA Turnstone Awareness



Whilst there is no turnstone monitoring this year – please do look out & note the location and numbers of roosting birds at high tide in your ‘patch’ – as you can help to inform next year’s surveys!

As usual, ultimately we would like to reduce recreational disturbance by coastal users and dogs around high tides (from 1.5 hours before to 0.5 hours after High Tide) – so look out for what issues we face in your area.

As the new England Coastal Path should be opened around the whole of the NE Kent coastline in 2017 you will see new signage including more turnstone awareness signs in the area. If you would know of a suitable site for a metal sign or waymark/roundel please do let us know.

## Please report any suspect so called ‘Palm Oil’ around our coast if you see any...

These fats and oils can be **very dangerous to dogs** – who quite often are attracted to the intense smell sometimes associated with them. We’ve had quite a few reports over the last few months – so please keep a look out. If you do take a sample, please put in a ‘glass’ jars/container (as some may be tested) and let **your local authority** know the time and location of your finds. These oils may be flushed out from the tanks of container ships some distance away; but many fats from shipping & other sources have been found as well. (pic: Tony Ovenden)



For further details, please go online to: [nekmpa.org.uk](http://nekmpa.org.uk) for background information. This includes an outline of some of the 2017 public events under ‘What’s On’

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

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

(Please note: 2017 Activity Survey dates and links to surveys or incident reports and other online information!)

I hope 2017 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*



Tony Child  
Thanet Coast (N.E. Kent Marine Protected Area) Officer  
[www.nekmpa.org.uk](http://www.nekmpa.org.uk)  
01843 577672  
c/o Thanet Council, PO Box 9,  
Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ  
[www.thanet.gov.uk](http://www.thanet.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/nekmpa1](http://www.facebook.com/nekmpa1)  
[twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj](https://twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj)

