

CoastWise News

Championing North Devon's Coast & Seas

July 2008

Biosphere & Marine Bill

Don Hills represented CWND at a meeting to respond on behalf of North Devon's Biosphere Reserve to the Government's Marine Bill consultation - details Coast & Countryside Service 01237 831277.

A response has been submitted on behalf of CoastWise about the importance of involving the public with the conservation aims of the Bill (available on request).

The DWT Wildlife Festival Some 2000 attended Barnstaple Pannier Market on 8 June. CoastWise was there with Jim Monroe and Paula Ferris, manning a quiz and display. A "wow" factor was provided by sea slugs, tube worms and barnacles viewed under a microscope.

Festival shore safari - 50 people took part at Barricane on 4 June. The sun shone, the sea hares were mating, Jim found a huge spider crab, and about 30 newcomers experienced the fascinations of shore life.



LOOKING, LEARNING, DOING

WORKING WITH DWT

DWT's Living Seas grant bid has been successful. Congratulations to Devon Wildlife Trust's Richard White & Cat Jones. CWND looks forward to working with them. Our awareness raising role will be coupled with gathering the lifetime recollections of local people about changing numbers of coastal plants and animals. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact donaldh@greenspirit.org.uk.

North Devon has a new group, CoastWise North Devon, championing the natural and cultural history of the coast. The initiative has come from enthusiasts on the successful Our Coast course who want to take a more active role in promoting and caring for our marine environment.

In an inspirational talk, Croyde-based marine biologist Bill Foster recently challenged the group by contrasting experience in the UK with Australia and New Zealand where dozens of marine protected areas have been created since the first and only English reserve was created at Lundy.

Paula Ferris, on behalf of CWND says "To improve the situation here, we need to understand more about the coast and the part it plays in our lives. The course provides one way, getting involved with the wildlife

comes next, addressing the issues and grasping opportunities, such as the Government's Marine Bill, the ultimate aim. Having fun is the bonus."

Knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of the coast will continue to be covered by the course which will next recruit in October. In addition more coastal visits, shore monitoring, data collection, starting with a Beach Profile project, and work with partners such as the Devon Wildlife Trust are now on the agenda.

There will be two levels of membership fee: £30 for those attending the course of 10 sessions, and £5 pa for attendance at individual sessions (+ session fee) and/or participation in other activities. Enquiries should be addressed to p.s.ferris@btinternet.com

BEACH PROFILING

We have around a dozen members actively obtaining 'profiles' of their chosen beaches this summer. We are using the Best Beach profile suggested by Paula as a guideline only. Profilers will contribute a perspective based on particular interests/expertise. The aim is to be informative and inspiring.

When assembled, by 17 September, the data will be collated and form a data base that can be added to. In the meantime, profilers can circulate their completed proformas to others for comment, if they so wish. A meeting for all profilers has been arranged for 27 August, to give an opportunity for the sharing of findings and for mutual encouragement.

Jim Monroe is now profiling Lee beach. Thanks Jim for your previous work at Golden Cove, Combe Martin. Great stuff!

Don Hills

COASTAL NETWORK

Maya Plass of "Learn to Sea" based in the South Hams (www.learntosea.co.uk) is planning to launch a coastal network of fellow Devon marine educators. She says "Our role is vital in reinforcing and supporting new legislation and connecting the public with our marine environment. We could be a valuable monitoring asset and agree to some simple but effective monitoring along our Devon coast, share best practice and brainstorm."

This initiative is greatly welcomed by CWN. In response to Maya's invitation, a straw poll of whether North Devon wants to join in, or use its own network (perhaps through CWN) reveals a strong preference for the latter as our circumstances are different and excess travel is to be avoided. Effective collaboration should be the aim through representation at one another's meetings and good communications.

The first (South) meeting is scheduled for Plymouth in September at which CWN will be represented, and a meeting in North Devon held subsequently. Meanwhile North Devon's marine practitioners will be consulted. Enquiries - Jill Portsmouth - jill@smrl.co.uk

Congratulations

Sarah Clayton has won an UnLtd Millennium Award to launch Shorelife, a welcome new venture. The project, led by Sarah and Jo Clarke, both marine biologists, has developed from their experience as DWT Marine Awareness Assistants last year. The focus will be developing interest in the wildlife of the shore. Enquiries to shorelife@hotmail.co.uk

CLARIFYING COASTWISE

The aim of CWN is to champion the North Devon marine and coastal environment by :-

1. promoting knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the natural and cultural history of North Devon's coastal and marine environments
2. undertaking associated educational, research and other relevant activities
3. working with other organisations to achieve these aims

The committee 2008/9:

Chairperson: Paula Ferris

Deputy Chairperson & Treasurer: Robert Down

Membership Secretary: Marjorie Heath

Co-ordinators

Projects: Don Hills

External Relations: Jill Portsmouth

Research: Ro & Paul Madgett

Programme: John Broomhead & Malcolm Roberts.

Co-opted member: Brian Heath

DIARY DATES

2 July - 10.30 am, DWT's rock-pool ramble at Barricane, led by Sarah Clayson & Jo Clarke, a great opportunity to learn more about this favourite beach.

4 July - MarLin's Shore Thing monitoring at Lee, 10.30 am - early afternoon - with Pip Jollands of Hallsannery Field Centre. Find out what's on the shore whilst counting it

6 July Shore Thing at Abbotsham, 11.30 am - 4.30 meet at car park, west end of Westward Ho! Tell Pip Jollands 01237 472135 if coming.

27 August Meeting for profilers

End August - Library display to launch course recruitment.

Other coastal activities: www.devonwildlifetrust.org, &
shorelife@hotmail.co.uk.