

August 2018



A few of us have developed an interest in snorkeling. Just to go a step further than rockpooling and see what is below the surface and on the rock faces we don't normally see. It's great fun and opens up a whole new world! Chris Mandry will be running a brush-up your snorkel skills session in a local pool soon.

Jan Whittington

## AUTUMN PROGRAMME

### October

11 *Reflections on Coastal Creatures*, Cat Oliver, AONB Project Officer

18 *The Amazing Cuttlefish - from egg to bird cage* John Rundle, former Head Aquarist, Marine Biological Association

25 From Channel Isle to Channel Coast: Alderney & N Devon, Martin Batt, naturalist and photographer.

### November

1 *Valuing our Marine Environments*, Dr Tara Hooper, Plymouth Marine Laboratory  
8 *The fascinating world of our shallow water fish*, Paul Naylor, underwater photographer and author

15 Members' Presentations, Nicola Mello  
22 *Clean Energy from Ocean Waves*, Amy Cartwright, postgraduate, Plymouth University

29 *Septimus CSI - a Cornish Seal Investigation*, Rob Wells and Sue Sayer, Cornwall Seal Group

### December

6 *Making a film on Marine Conservation Zones*, Thomas Daguerre, Hydro Motion Media

13 *Introducing North Devon's Beaches*, Nicola Mello & others.

More information? [info@coastwisenorthdevon.org.uk](mailto:info@coastwisenorthdevon.org.uk)

## COASTAL CREATURES - WHAT NEXT?

In barely two years North Devon AONB Coastal Creatures project has succeeded beyond all expectations, thanks in large part to the work of Project Officer Cat Oliver and the participation she has inspired from old and young alike.

The ambitious Heritage Lottery-funded project was the brainchild of AONB Manager Jenny Carey-Wood. She drew in key partners of which Coastwise was delighted to be one. We have relished participation in the censuses and training opportunities, activities we intend to continue where we can through our own programmes.

This summer we took part in the Northam Bioblitz, regular monthly species censuses, and the last in a wonderful series of expert workshops, *Algae with Jo Corke*. Coastal and beach events included welcome collaborations with Northam Burrows and Parkdean Ruda.

Chair Nicola Mello says "In all these Cat has been organizer, teacher, enabler, friend, and cake provider. For her nothing has been too much trouble. We salute her and wish her every success as she starts a PhD at Aberystwyth on algae harvesting and ecosystem impact.

It is now up to us to build on the project, using our new insights to get to know our beaches and their wildlife better. Watch this space for developments open to all members."



Cat has made good use of a Coastwise microscope now gifted to her, along with accessories presented here by Nicola.

### Forthcoming Events

Still to come - a public shore safari at Croyde on 29 August, members' beach visit to Hele Bay on 12 September, and Microscope Session at Ilfracombe Dive Club 27 September.

## **BITS & PIECES**

**Marine Policy** - North Devon is playing a key role in two major studies, with Suffolk as a pilot area under Defra's **Marine Pioneers project**, and alongside the Outer Hebrides as one of two case study areas in the WWF-led **UK SEAS** (Sustainable Environments at Sea) project. It is early days for both, so whilst welcoming them Coastwise has asked committee member Stan Coats to monitor developments and represent our interests as and when appropriate.

A **Cornwall Seal Group** team came to North Devon to train Coastwise & other volunteers in assisting with identification of local seals most of which are photographed by local seal expert Dave Jenkins and colleagues. A small team is developing with Glenis Beardsley setting the pace. Links with CSG are strengthening & include a talk on 29 November from seal experts Rob Wells & Sue Sayer.

Coastwise involvement in **Shore Thing** is coming to an end after this year. It was an initiative of the MBA working with schools and volunteers to collect information on the marine life of rocky shores around Britain. Our involvement in 2007 was initiated & supported by local ecologist Pip Jollands, and led to one of the longest runs of surveys, undertaken annually at Lee Bay & Abbotsham. With the ending of Shore Thing support to the MBA we will continue with a non-native & invasive species survey along similar lines led by Pip Jollands.

The monthly **Coastal Creature censuses** are ending too. We hope to become the AONB's custodian and principal user of the project census kit to support our own survey plans, which include undertaking a Coastwise version of the census survey in future.

**Beachcomber Beetles** were last found at Saunton in 2002, and the Species Recovery Trust is encouraging local surveys of the strandline in the hope of finding them again. In response Coastwise, led by Dave Jenkins, explored the Saunton strandline in June. No Beachcombers were found but much else of interest amongst the weed and abundant sandhoppers.

**Microscope sessions** continue to be popular both with members and the public. At the latest Stan Coats shared his fascination with forams filtered from the shore. The plankton haul was modest but the rock-pool algae revealed an exquisite Facellina

pedata and the creeping hydrozoan, Eleutheria dichotoma. Coastwise has bought 6 more Brunel scopes: 2 stereomicroscopes & 4 field scopes, the latter to be available to support beach events as well as regular members' microscope sessions held in Ilfracombe Dive Club, the next on 27 September.

Congratulations to the North Devon Coast AONB on success in obtaining a £50,000 Heritage Lottery grant towards a new **Coastal Heritage Project**, a subject of interest to many members. Joe Penfold, previously with Shropshire Hills AONB, has been appointed Heritage Officer to develop conservation volunteering and practical archaeology.

On a very sad note, **Bill Petch**, a member since 2016, died in May after a short illness. His wide interests made him many Coastwise friends to whom he left his microscopes and associated kit, currently held by Paula Ferris.

### **Facebook Friends**

Where better to find out what members have been up to during the summer than the Coastwise facebook group. Over 300 have joined so far, many Coastwise members, friends from far & wide, and newcomers we have yet to meet whose interest we greatly welcome.

Our special thanks must go to experts Dave Fenwick, Heather Buttivant and Steve Trehwella for their encouragement and identification skills and to members whose regular posts encourage us to share experiences.

To name just a few:

Jan Whittington, Facebook supremo, with many super posts – "well chuffed to find 2 good nudibranchs at Ilfracombe : Janolus cristatus and the 2nd rarer one, yet to be confirmed, but likely Tritonia sp".(it was)

Annette Dutton who posted that MARINELife wants volunteer Wildlife Officers for the Lundy and Channel Islands routes. She has been volunteering for over 4 years and finds it very rewarding

Martin Corfe shares his pictures & tells us of the free online course Exploring our Oceans from Futurelearn.

Gudrun Limbrick, of Beach Stuff blog, quizzes us, she found a Pennant's crab buried in a blue jelly and asked if anyone else had seen this behaviour.

Robin Shrubsole for good advice on jellyfish identification and much more.

Robert Durrant shared a good find. Diving off Lundy he spotted some little sea slugs that turned out, courtesy of Bernard Picton, to be *Trapania pallida*,....only one previous record in the Bristol Channel.

Muriel Lindsay gave a talk locally about the delights of marine life and we have Robert Down to thank for telling us and sharing his photos with us.

Keep posting.