

August 2011

WHAT'S IN STORE

Biologist, broadcaster and Coastwise favourite Tegwyn Harris will start our autumn programme with Plankton on Parade, enthusing, educating and inspiring our studies of the sea and shore. During the 10 week programme we will cover shore ecology with Pip Jollands, followed by a beach visit, and learn about Cornwall's VMCA coasts, north & south from Abbi Crosby of Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

We will look at fishing and conservation issues with experts, at EU level with John Bradbeer, regionally with Devon Wildlife Trust's, Dominic Lees and locally - the National Trust's Steve Mulberry & Jonathon Fairhurst, taking Baggy as their case study. Chris Mandry will celebrate Lundy's 40th. Dave Green will help us with our photography, and geologist Paul Madgett with pebbles of the shore. Both are Coastwise members and it is to members that the last session will be devoted, to displays reflecting their activities during the year

STILL TO COME

August

2nd Shore Safari at Lee Bay, 1 pm

16th Shore Safari at Combe Martin, 1 pm

24th Microscope Workshop at Morteohoe Village Hall, between 10.30 am & 3.30 pm, see below

31st Shore Safari at

Westward Ho! 1pm

September

3rd Shore Safari at Ilfracombe, details TBA



Marjorie Hill (R) with the beach tank, and Matt Hill's Facelina coronata picture

SHARING SAFARI HIGHLIGHTS

"Popular Saunton shore safari finds mice and spiders. Read more." So began Robert Down's web report of an early safari in our most ambitious summer programme to date.

All 7 of the shore safaris held so far have attracted plenty of takers, with about 70 at Saunton. Fortunately Project Leader Jim Monroe has over 20 volunteers to call upon for help including several welcome new recruits. Jim says "With so much public interest we need plenty of volunteers and lots of enthusiasm. It is hard work but we all learn together and the appreciation we get makes it really worthwhile."

The weather, and the rough seas which move the sand about, has been very variable, affecting what we have found. Even so every event has had its highlights. Glorious sunshine at Croyde brought out people keen to stock our small temporary aquarium and get unusually close views of even familiar animals, including a bevy of sea snails. Saunton was notable for the rarely seen sea mice, three found on the tide line, and a tiny sea spider, as well as the exquisite sea slug. Our several visits to Barricane produced sea hares in abundance, and the usual range of sea snails, crabs and small fish, but in modest numbers.

We were pleased to have shared two Barricane events with the National Trust who will continue to offer shore safaris at Barricane throughout the school holidays, whilst Coastwise visits a range of locations. Individual members will be able to support the Trust by volunteering at their events, and those organized for Combe Martin Museum by member Hilary Fletcher with support from Don Hills. As Jim says "It's great that our shore safaris have proved so popular, and that other organizations are spreading interest in our precious shore life."

MICROSCOPE WORKSHOPS

Our first 2 Microscope Workshops were held as part of AONB Discovery Days in May & at Combe Martin included one of Nature's Great Moments - the "birth" of triplets when 3 miniature Beadlets emerged from the column of the adult that was apparently brooding them, a rare sight that none of us had seen before.

We will be on our own for the third and last of the workshops to be held in Mortehoe Village Hall on 24th August, from 10.30am to 3.30 pm. Microscopy will be the sole focus, providing a welcome opportunity for Coastwise to test and explore public interest. Visitors, including accompanied children, can drop in for as long as they like. We will have several low mag. light microscopes for them to use and a digital scope to share live images, as well as some pre-recorded members' film clips.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Marlin has obtained funding to continue the *Shore Thing* monitoring project. Coastwise has been participating for 4 years. Under the guidance of ecologist Pip Jollands, a dozen or so Coastwise members made early summer visits to Abbotsham & Lee for quadrat counting and to search for climate change indicators & alien species. The next session will be at Lee on 29 September - all welcome. Lundy's 40th was celebrated by the marine conservation world's great and good on the Oldenberg in July with the launch of an excellent new guide, *Rock-pool and Snorkelling Species Identification*, already much appreciated by members, several of whom had been invited and took the opportunity to renew acquaintances and seek contributions to future programmes. Diver Chris Mandry has agreed to provide a CD of pictures taken during this year's dives - to provide members with a glimpse of sub-tidal wonders.

Parkdean Holidays, owners of Croyde Beach, is proud of its Blue Flag and in recognition of Coastwise beach cleaning and shore education activities invited Chair Paula Ferris to hoist the new flag to coincide with Goldcoast Oceanfest.

The **push-net** crafted by Malcolm Roberts made its debut at the Festival shore safari at Barricane. In the hands of Malcolm and guest, diver Brian Watts, it cut a swathe through the shallows revealing, amongst the prawns and flatties, two Lesser Weaver Fish, beautiful fish but possessors of painful stings, not, thankfully, inflicted on Malcolm or Brian..

Hotel proposal - the proposal to build a 35 bed hotel on the Atlantis Lodge site at Baggy has re-emerged and was brought to the attention of Coastwise. Members were encouraged to respond individually given the short timescale. Coastwise hopes to find out more about the factors associated with such sensitive coastal site development and hear about

the National Trust's management of Baggy in the Autumn.

The **RSPB** has appointed a business development office for North Devon, Ian Wrigglesworth, who together with the Isley Marsh voluntary wardens, who include Coastwise's Rob Jutsum, hope to increase local RSPB activities, including walks and talks on the Tarka Trail. Rob plans to offer members a birding trip to Isley in the autumn.

Visit to Kimmeridge - 10 members went to Dorset to snorkel, rock-pool and visit the VMCA Marine Centre in July. On a snorkelling trail over the wide shallow basin for which Kimmeridge is famous, they had good views of plenty of wrasse lurking amongst the many unfamiliar seaweeds. The geology, though fascinating, provided few rock-pools, and, after a talk in the Centre, the VMCA's Mark Smith gave a tour focussing on the strandline and shallows, home to abundant small invertebrates, shorefish and the seaweed Peacock's Tail, being monitored for its spread, and a stranger still to North Devon.

Common Fisheries Policy - the EU has recently announced proposals for a policy which aims to meet many of the shortcomings of the CFP, with an end to some discards, an ecosystem approach, & a reduction in fishing effort through measures to be delegated for regional regulation. Conservation agencies say it is not enough, and is in any event open to dilution during scrutiny by member states, so conservation pressure should be kept up.

Committee member & shore safari leader, Anne Brown has moved away. and is greatly missed. She made a huge contribution, particularly to several projects-including the shore safaris. Her summary of key species has become our bible - memorably reminding us that young & foolish male limpets become female as they age and become wise. Indeed. Thank you Anne and best wishes for the future.

Thursdays 9.45 - 11.45 am Barnstaple Library	
Date	Topic
6 October	Plankton on Parade
13 October	Shore ecology revisited
20 October	MCZs & commercial fishing
27 October	Shore safari
3 November	Pebbles of the shore Lundy's 40th
10 November	Photography for naturalists
17 November	EU marine policy
24 November	Managing Baggy Point in the 21st Century
1 December	VMCA's - the Cornish perspective
8 December	The Members' Year

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Edited: Paula Ferris 7/2011