

August 2016

SPRING BREAK

Coastwise members regularly make a visit to “foreign” shores, organised by Mavis Symons with help from marine experts Trudy Russell and Jason Birt.

This year over 20 of us went to beaches to the west of Padstow, Porth Mear and Trevone, during a weekend of exciting weather, 9-11 April, finishing on the Monday with a visit to the Lobster Hatchery.

Mavis’s fine organisation gave us plenty of sociable pit stops, that & the good company ensured another very enjoyable trip.

Impressive species lists at Trevone and Porthmear included fine arrays of Scarlet and Gold Star Corals, and the uncommon Hermit Crab *Clibanarius erythropus*, spotted by Janice Whittington.

COASTAL CREATURES



North Devon Coasts AONB is championing marine education in North Devon through this 2-year project & the appointment of an Education Officer.



Shore Thing monitoring with Coastwise, Coastal Creatures Education Officer Cat Oliver, right, with Ruth Turner.

DRAFT AUTUMN PROGRAMME

October

6 Coastal Creatures Bioblitz, Jim Monroe, introducing Cat Oliver

13 At sea surveying, Rick Morris

MARINELife

20 MCZ management, Sarah Clark, Devon & Severn IFCA

27 Everything but animals!

Members Session

November

3 An introduction to geology from a coastline life cycle perspective, Andrew Green, geologist IGI Ltd

10 Algae, what are they, why are we grateful to them? John Hudson

17 Ship-building around Barnstaple, Peter Ferguson, maritime historian

24 Coastal Map-making, Mike Harrison, Croyde Cycle

December

3 Australia’s animals are bigger, but better? tbc Jay Nicholson

8 Fragile Legacy, celebrating Blaschka glass models, Sue Austin

The main aim is to deliver a range of marine education objectives and carries the full support of Coastwise. We congratulate the AONB on this initiative & for obtaining additional funding from Tesco’s Bags for Life fund to support the continuation of the successful the Clean Marine project.

Coastal Creatures will focus on developing local engagement with the wildlife of the shore through activities for schools, citizen scientists and the general public. There will be a focus on 4 key local beaches: Croyde, Lee, Northam & Combe Martin, reflecting the interests & support of partner organisations: Coastwise, National Trust, Northam Country Park & Combe Martin School’s seaschool.

Bioblitzes, where enthusiasts & the public join forces to identify as many species as possible in a given period, are a great way to enjoy getting to know nature. That’s why the project will include several, Coastwise hosting the first, based on our successful event at Woolacombe 2 years ago. Everyone’s invited.

Saturday 17th September 2016 10 am – 6 pm

Join us at Basecamp, Limekiln Field, opp Ruda.

With kind permission National Trust & Parkdean, Ruda

CAPTURING OUR COAST

Some members are taking part in this national project to develop citizen science through a programme of structured surveys, co-ordinated regionally. Ben Holt, MBA-based SW leader, ran a special training session for 16 members at Ruda, Croyde in May. Nicola Mello & Heather Booker started surveying in August at Lee & Pip Jollands has offered to co-ordinate south of the estuary.

SHORE THING

Coastwise has contributed to this MBA citizen science survey for 10 years, virtually since the start. We hope its longevity will secure its future. Under the expert guidance of Pip Jollands we survey two different habitats, Lee, a protected bay, and Abbotsham an exposed rocky plateau. The structured survey with quadrats along transects ensures that the same spots are surveyed in successive years & has provided us with a useful basic grounding in surveying.

MCZs

Tranche 2 announced in January includes the longest inter-tidal Marine Conservation Zone in the country here in North Devon from Westward Ho! to Foreland Point as well as Hartland Point to Tintagel. The announcement came in January just a week before Natural England's MCZ officer Robert Enever came to talk to us about the implications - the good timing a fitting reward to Coastwise for its MCZ input.

We are told consideration of Tranche 3 will include an area NW of Lundy & parts of the estuary. It will not cover any extension beyond Westward Ho! in this round.

BEACH CLEANS

Thanks to Tesco's Bags for Life, the AONB can continue to support beach cleans & the first organised by Cat Oliver with welcome Coastwise members' support was to Crow Point in August. She reports that "We picked up 18 bags of litter, a bike wheel, some fishing litter and a large metal North Devon District Council bin. Disappointing that so much of the litter was bagged up dog poo - I'm going to investigate ways in which to reduce this - any suggestions welcome!"

SPRING PROGRAMME

There was plenty about local shore life in the programme - its "secret treasure" was revealed by Keith Hiscock, we visited Ilfracombe to see the popular aquarium & had a productive microscopy session in the dive club, after which a dozen members ordered their own field 'scopes. To end the session we held our first shore visit of the year to Lee and revelled in one of the lowest tides we

had seen there judging by the good numbers of Devonshire Cup Corals on display..

GETTING AROUND

Three members attended CWT's Our shore conference in February to revel in Cornwall's support for marine activities.

Four attended the FSC marine symposium at Dale Fort led by Mark Ward whose opening talk was a master class in audience engagement. Maya Plass demonstrated the value of social media for promoting marine conservation. Added bonus: Quekett microscopical club glimpses eg limpet radula x400.

Three members joined the National Trust's Polzeath/Lundy Bay bioblitz - highlights included the fish traps c/o CWT & Matt Slater, Jack Sewell's digital microscope. & Sue Sayer's seal talk. Trips to Lundy organised by Janice Whittington this summer are still to come.

STRANDBLINE

With weather set fair Dave Jenkins led a strandline survey for a dozen members & friends at Saunton in August to share his expertise gained over many years & view collected treasures.

Mermaid's purses, Gooseneck Barnacles and a By-the-wind sailor were amongst the evening's finds during a very successful event.



SOCIAL MEDIA

We hope to run a social media familiarisation session for members in the autumn. Only a minority of regular members belong to the Facebook site run by Janice Whittington which has at least 112 friends & is proving to be a great way to share information and experiences.

MONITORING

This year we are trialling submitting group finds to iRecord to create a basic "profile" of our key beaches on which we can build. Our list, supported by photographic evidence which is shared in Dropbox, is checked by Paula Ferris & submitted by Annette Dutton.

Edited by Paula Ferris, August 2016