

February 2016

## LAST AUTUMN

Intriguing titles from Robert Down's website reports on the last programme hint at another varied & satisfying programme:

*Native explorer....*, Robert Durrant on closely observed Cnidaria & Crustaceans.

*The seashore's only fun if you're a human (or a dog) .....*, John Hudson on the challenges facing shore life

*Lots of sharks, and not a lawyer in sight....*, Nikky Weedon with a passionate defence of beloved sharks

*Question - Statistics are interesting.....aren't they?* certainly when Rob Joules reveals the extent of the National Trust's local role.

*Coastwise members are impressive...* Agreed, as exemplified by presentations from Jim Monroe, Chris Mandry, Rose Roberts & Hilary Fletcher

*CWT Covers Its Coastline.....in detail*, in describing Cornwall's Big Inter-tidal Survey Cas Waddell won many admirers for the project & her team.

Can we keep up this wonderful variety? Yes, judging from our 20<sup>th</sup> programme so far: Molluscs, MPAs, & Maritime History.

### Special events & information contact

**27 February VMCA conference**

Paula Ferris

**8 April South West Marine Ecosystems**

Jan Whittington

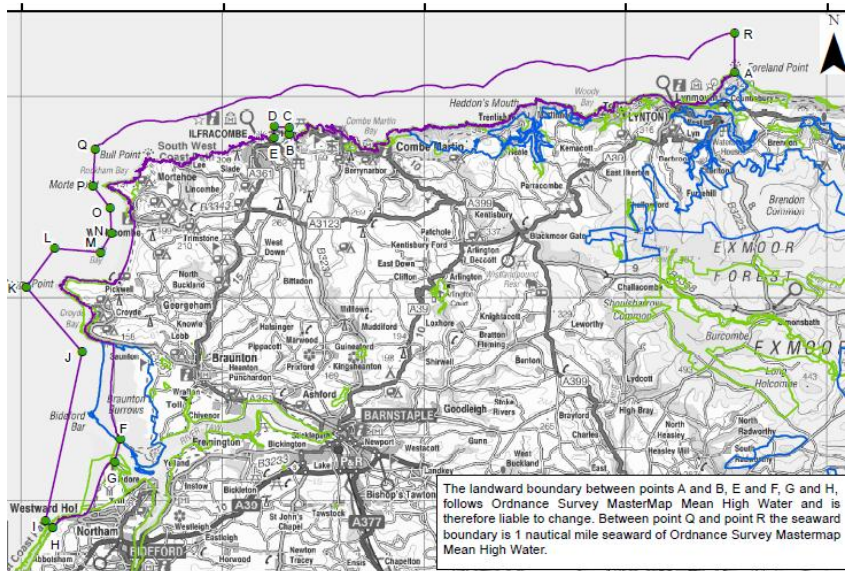
**9-11 April North Cornwall weekend & Lobster Hatchery**

Mavis Symons

**21 May 2016 Dale Fort FSC Symposium & Skomer**

Jan Whittington

## GOOD START TO 2016



1 On 20<sup>th</sup> January Defra announced the 2nd tranche of Marine Conservation Zones including two inshore areas in North Devon Hartland -Tintagel and Bideford to Foreland Point, a cause for celebration in North Devon. Thanks are due to the Biosphere Working Group, chaired by Robert Down and its exemplary consensus approach.

Bideford - Foreland Point (above) is the country's longest inshore tidal MCZ, and includes most of the beaches covered in our programmes, from Westward Ho! to Combe Martin, in a tidal strip that extends 1 nm seawards. The case for an extension 4 km westwards to include Greencliff, so passionately espoused by Rob Durrant, will carry Coastwise support and we hope will be considered for the 3rd tranche.

2 Earlier the Biosphere hosted a meeting with Ben Holt of Capturing our Coast, a national project through which to learn new survey skills and build a citizen science resource. With our enthusiastic support Ben will run training days at Croyde for local shore survey volunteers, the first on 11 May at Ruda, Croyde.

3 At the end of the month the AONB submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund with Coastwise as a partner, for a Coastal Creatures Project. The aim is to bring much needed marine expertise & resources into the area to develop marine educational capacity. Four beaches will be the focus of activities including shore studies for schools & colleges, training of citizen scientists, and knowledge building such as monitoring & surveying. A dream come true for Coastwise members, we wish the AONB every success. If successful, Coastwise will contribute financially and give many volunteer hours as match funding."

**A Seascape Character Assessment** for the North Devon and Exmoor coast has been produced for the AONB to complement the Landscape Character Assessments used.

They will help to:-

Assist in spatial planning - development at sea and along the coast (including renewables)

Feed into the SW marine planning process which will take place within the next 5 years

Help define the 'special qualities' of the coast and seascape

Provide evidence for management plans of the AONB, National Park and National Trust

Coastwise welcomes this recognition of the importance of seascape for coastal planning. Several members were pleased to attend an information and training session in January aimed at County, District and Parish councillors, planners, agencies and those involved in managing and making decisions about our coast and inshore seas

**Salcombe Bioblitz, September 2015** a lovely venue for a great Bioblitz, all the usual stars were there, people and critters, including five from Coastwise:- Marjorie & Brian Heath, seen here with MBA's Jack Sewell, Janice Whittington, first to find a Feather Star much to the envy of Paula Ferris, never far from her microscope, & birder Rob Jutsum, who photographed the event.



Those not going to the Bioblitz took advantage of the exceptionally low tide with a trip to **Hele Bay**. Sue Austin says "The weather was wonderful and a very low tide meant we could really explore deep into the kelp. I found my first sea gherkins (*Pawsonia saxicola*) and our new member John Parsons showed his prowess by finding a beautiful lobster who had just taken her clothes off to mate!"

The AONB's very successful **Clean Marine Project** led by Natalie Gibb came to an end in October, but keen to keep the momentum going, the AONB will

share information and support others with events and continue to organise a few of their own. Two groups are showing the way with monthly beach cleans:

Westward Ho! at 11am on the first Sunday until the spring, then evenings of first Tuesday of each month.

Croyde Surf Club -details on their Community Beach Cleans page on facebook.

Coastwise members are encouraged to give support.

**The next social, Coffee & cakes, Coastal Conversation** -whatever you want to call it (suggestions please) will be held in Queen's Theatre Cafe, on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, from 10.30 am - come along, there's plenty to talk about.

**Shore Safari Training** Coastwise members always welcome Jim Monroe's shore safari training, whether as leaders or supporters. Jim got the ball rolling with an excellent introduction to the shore on a dull windy day at Croyde last year. More is on offer this summer, through the Capturing our Coast project and the Coastwise Summer Programme, see below.

#### DRAFT SUMMER PROGRAMME

Mid-day timing tba

*Subject to change due to weather Shore Safaris are public events. Shore Thing monitoring tba*

#### April

Thursday 7th Lee Bay (members event/survey)

Friday 22nd Barricane (members event/survey)

#### May

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Croyde (members event/survey)

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Capturing our Coast Croyde Workshop

#### June

Sunday 5th Hele Bay Shore Safari

Thursday 23rd Shore Safari with Combe Martin (to include survey)

#### July

Tuesday 5th Westward Ho! (members event/survey)

Friday 22nd Greencliff - exploratory survey

#### August

Tuesday 2nd Croyde Shore Safari

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Lee Bay Shore Safari

Friday 19th Westward Ho! Shore Safari

#### SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3rd Croyde 8 hour Bioblitz (public)

**Membership & Committee**- we're pretty full as usual, though we always welcome new members. Chris Mandry has joined the committee in place of Sandy Johnson, & Annette Dutton joins as an Observer.

Edited by Paula Ferris, February 2016