

October 09

NORTH DEVON CONSERVATION SOCIETY ANNUAL AWARDS 2009

Coastwise Chair, Paula Ferris, was thrilled to receive two awards plus certificates from the North Devon Conservation Society

- **The President's Shield**
- **North Devon AONB Coastal Award for the Natural Environment**

These were presented by Lady Arran at Barnstaple Guildhall on 19th June for our work on coastal education, conservation, research and campaigning on the marine environment



Lady Arran presenting the AONB award to Paula Ferris & Jill Portsmouth. Right - the NDCS's President's Shield.



AONB GRANT FOR COASTWISE SHORE SAFARIS

Thanks to the efforts of Robert Down, Coastwise has received a grant of £1630 from the AONB' to be used to train and equip Coastwise members to lead public beach visits. Once training is completed four Shore Safaris will be organised during 2010.

Following the loss of the DWT Marine Awareness post for North Devon's VMCA, and the rockpool rambles she used to run, it is hoped that these Shore Safaris will provide fun and education for visitors and locals alike.

Coastwise has raised its concern at the loss of the post at the Estuary Forum, and action now lies with the Coast & Countryside Service.

MARINE BILL

- In May three Coastwise members joined the Devon Wildlife Trust on a 300 person lobby of the Houses of Parliament to support the Bill. Several members visited their MPs at their local surgeries to encourage awareness and support of the Bill's amendments, which will be voted on when Parliament returns.
- To date 219 MPs have signed up to Early Day Motion 337 including Nick Harvey. EDM 337 proposes provision for Highly Protected Marine Reserves, & asks that Marine Conservation Zones be designated on strictly scientific criteria. Conservationists are also pressing for closure to fishing's exemption from the offence of damaging MCZs.
- Coastwise member Jay Nicholson arranged a showing of The End of the Line, the acclaimed film about the plight of fishing, at the Plough in September. Torridge MP Geoffrey Cox attended as our guest at Malcolm Roberts' invitation, and appeared to concur that the film made the case for highly marine protected marine reserves (ie no-take) to be included in the Bill.
- Coastwise will be represented by Jill Portsmouth on the influential Devon MCZ Group, which will be gathering information on suitable MCZ locations for forwarding to Finding Sanctuary which will advise the Marine Management Organisation.
- Coastwise committee members Malcolm Roberts & Jill Portsmouth, gave an interview to Radio Devon, in August, on Coastwise's conservation concerns and involvement with the Finding Sanctuary project.

LIVING SEAS ORAL HISTORIES

In July, Jill Portsmouth and Paula Ferris presented Barnstaple Museum with a complete copy of the Living Seas Oral History recorded interviews, together with a selection of photographs copied from originals lent to us by the interviewees. North Devon Journal published Jill Portsmouth's article on the Oral History Project. Extracts of these interviews are on the DWT website and other extracts are being posted on the Coastwise website as they become available.

MARINE NETWORK

The Coastwise North Devon Marine Network is continuing to expand and is receiving regular reports of sightings off the North Devon coast from local cetacean watchers. The aim of the network is to exchange information on all matters coastal. New members are very welcome. Please contact Anne Brown anne.brown46@yahoo.com

COMBE MARTIN MUSEUM

In July lots of members attended the opening of the Combe Martin Museum, which includes a "science lab" and education room well placed for beach studies.

Dr Mark Horton of the TV programme Coast cut the ribbon and a good time was had by all. Afterwards we enjoyed a meal in the Mariner's Arms and Paula managed to collar Mark Horton and gave him an exclusive run-down on Coastwise and its activities!

MEMBERSHIP

With Library venue capacity limited to 54, Coastwise is nearly full for 2009/2010 with full and associate members totalling 60. Those who can not join but want to remain in contact, are encouraged to join the Network which we will be working to develop during the year. Contact Anne Brown 01237 475320.

TIPPING POINT FOR OUR SEAS? Certainly there has never been a better time to write to your MP to say you care, that the Marine Bill must be strengthened. We want there to be fish in the sea in 50 years time.

COASTWISE AUTUMN COURSE PROGRAMME 2009

The new autumn Coastwise Course of talks started on 1st October at the Burton Art Gallery with an inspirational "Wildlife artists working in the Field" from curator Warren Collum, organised by John Broomhead.

Talks follow every Thursday at 9.45 am at Barnstaple Library:
October

8 - Marine Bill & Cetaceans, Devon Wildlife Trust: Richard White

15 - North Devon shipwreck habitats, Keith Denby

22 - AONB 50th Anniversary talk on Devon coastal habitats, John Walters, naturalist

29 - RNLI, Bernice Putt

November

5 - Life of the Rocky Shore, Mark Ward, Nettlecombe FSC

12 Renewable Energy, Robert Down, & Clouds, Paul Madgett

19 Estuary Birds, Rob Jutsum & John Broomhead's Quiz

26 - Fishing and the Marine Bill, John Butterwith, North Devon Fishermen's Association

December

3 - Between the Tides, film by Jay Nicholson

10 - Mini Sessions & AGM • Course volunteers

In addition there will be field visits as weather and tides permit.

SUMMER & AUTUMN EVENTS

About 30 members took part in MarLin's Shore Thing monitoring project at Lee and Abbotsham in June and again at Lee in October for the third year running under the guidance of Pip Jollands from Hallsannery.

Several members helped at Braunton School's beach day in May, and joined Lee WI for a visit to their beach in June. In September, 30 children and their parents took part in our rock-pool rambles for the Sea Ilfracombe Festival. A visit to Plymouth Aquarium was hailed a huge success having been superbly organised by Marjorie Heath. We had a fascinating joint visit to Barricane with the British Naturalists on 20th, with good beach views of a conger and lobster.

We have also had several very enjoyable beach visits to update our Beach Profiles during the summer, and are collating the Sabellaria sightings for the Coast & Countryside Service.

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Written by Jill Portsmouth & Paula Ferris