

Hotting up on the shore

Life is hotting up on the shore and the animals you find there have interesting ways of coping. Just how interesting in this mating season is one of the things you will learn on the Coastwise North Devon shore safari for the Festival, for June. Coastwise invites anyone interested to join them at Barricane Beach, Woolacombe on 16 June 2 – 4 pm, to learn more about the weird and wonderful wildlife of our shores.

Reproduction bonanza

Jim Monroe who is co-ordinating the shore safari, says, “June is a special month on the shore. Waters warm, food becomes more available, fish and crabs come to shore to lay their eggs, joining barnacles, sea snails and other animals, as well as seaweed, in a reproduction bonanza. Our shore is a truly wild place, teeming with life, and we want to help you explore it.

Rare Stalked Jellyfish

We expect to find anemones, sea snails, crabs, and fish tucked in amongst the rocks and crevices, and maybe some less common animal such as cowries, sea hares, and starfish, or even the rare Stalked Jellyfish. All have adapted to live in this extreme habitat in special ways we can tell you about that are as fascinating as surprising.”

The event is free and all are welcome. Help and guidance will be provided. Shore ID guides will be available, nets and buckets provided. Clothing appropriate to the weather should be worn, and wellies or other suitable footwear. Participants will be responsible for their own safety and children, under 18, must be accompanied. To secure a place call Jim Monroe on 01271 882078 or 07889 134466.

Not just for children

Coastwise Chair Paula Ferris says, “Rock-pools are not just for children. Coastwise members are proof of that. Whilst some of us simply marvel at the sheer beauty and complexity of the life on our shore, others are more interested in the whys and wherefores, and all of us are keen to share our enthusiasm. That’s why we have spent time during the last year learning to be guides. Now is our chance to put it into practice and your turn to discover the secret world of the shore.”

Notes

Coastwise North Devon - an independent community initiative, aims to increase understanding of the coast, its wildlife, and its importance to North Devon in the past, present and the future. We do this through sharing knowledge, undertaking conservation activities and projects, and addressing current issues.

www.coastwisenorthdevon.org.uk

We actively collaborate with other organisations including North Devon’s Biosphere of which we are proud to be a partner. We are grateful to Parkin Estates for access to Barricane Beach.

The safari guides are members who have undergone training funded by the North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainable Development Fund in order to run a series of shore safaris for people interested in the varied life of the North Devon shore. This will be the third safari, with more to come in the school holidays.

Their first event in April celebrated the 50th birthday of the AONB and was followed by a series of rock-pool rambles during Combe Martin’s Discovery Day on 15 May.