

Late Summer Activities

The summer's not over yet and there are some events left before we start the series of Autumn talks.

Note that the planned Bucks Mill beach survey (August 28th) has had to be cancelled, but it is planned to do it later on.

The cancellation is because we are supporting the National Trust's "Rockpool Safaris" (infringement of copyright ?) on 24th and 26th August. These are at Barricane, so check with a Committee Member for start times, or just look at the tide tables and arrive an hour or so before the low !

On September 10th there will be an update of the beach surveys for Barricane, Combesgate and Grunta. To do these beaches justice we need plenty of Coastwise members, so try and come along.

On September 11th we will be supporting the Sea Ilfracombe festival with a Shore Safari in the afternoon. Last year it was organized by the Round Table, but this year we will be running it under the Coastwise banner. In late September, keep an eye out for the Library display announcing the Autumn Coastwise Course - this starts on Thursday 7th October. Remember the earlier starting time of 9.45am.

Autumn Programme

The Autumn Programme gets off to a flying start with presentations from two experts in their fields. On 7th October Dr Doug Herdson, an independent fish scientist, until recently at the National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth will start us off. His talk, *The heat is on* will look at the impact of climate change on marine life, particularly important in the south west where the impact is significant according to leading Plymouth researchers.

The following week, on 14th October scientist Dr Phil Smith of Crediton-based Aquatronics Consultancy, will give a biologist's perspective on managing the marine environment, including current trends and the balance between policy and science.

On 21st October, Maranda Coleman-Cook will be exploring the less known aspects of Braunton Marshes in terms of its natural history and recent evolution.

On 4th November, Tim Jones will be dipping into the lives, behaviour and ecological needs of some of the birds which frequent the estuary. This will not be an ID sessions as we leave that to Coastwise's captive expert twitcher, Rob Jutsum.

Our very own Jim Monroe will talk about microscopy and his own explorations in the footsteps of the Victorians on 18th November.

Autumn 2010

Newsletter



Sporting the Coastwise logo, Shore Safari Co-ordinator Jim Monroe and group leader Mavis Symons take a well-earned rest after a shore safari at Barricane. Excel Embroidery can add the logo to clothing from their own catalogue, or the customer's garment. Ask Jim or Mavis for more information or contact Excel direct, 01271 866655.

Then on 25th November, Chris Cornford will be focusing on Bideford Bay with a long term view as to how it evolved into what it is now and I think account for all the many varied micro habitats that make it such a rich and interesting area.

Later on after the member's mini-sessions, on 9th December, Chris Mandry's talk on "Wrecks of North Devon" will concentrate on shipwrecks that can actually be got to - some even on foot.

Download the full programme from the website (www.coastwisenorthdevon.org.uk)

Marine Reserves - Biosphere develops a response

Creating a planning environment to care for the sea is no easy task, but it is vital and that is what the Government's Marine Act 2010 sets out to do. Under the Act a network of Marine Conservation Zones is to be created around the country, not all no-take zones, but each with appropriate levels of protection.

Response from North Devon to initial consultations was low, so the Biosphere Reserve has set up a Marine Working Group to coordinate representative local input. Coastwise members Paula, Malcolm, Jill and Robert have an active role in the MWG.

All of us acknowledge the need for conservation and we only have to think of our fish stocks and the way even locally we have to fish down the food chain to

It's not just whales that like Plankton

Coastwise members assisted Marlin staff at the Appledore Arts Festival **Plankton Workshop** in June when the public were shown microscopic algae and animal plankton, in samples of sea water and from the Torridge. The extraordinary shapes and activities of the organisms could also be seen via a microscope and projector, and subjected to mixed media applications for artistic effect. The microscopes were in constant demand from a constant stream of people, clearly fascinated, over 3 days.

meet the market's demands, to realise that this can not go on. The MWG's aim is to identify and then safeguard the most precious North Devon marine environments by proposing levels of protection for them on which we hope to reach consensus.

Key organisations have provided support and expertise including Natural England, the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Agency, and Finding Sanctuary, the southwest agency responsible for submitting MCZ proposals to Government by next summer.

A recent well-received presentation by the MWG to the Devon MCZ Group identified potential areas on which the group has focussed, including the estuary, stretches of coast, and an area of the seabed to the west of Morte recognised for its exceptional animal communities.

Supporting the National Trust support our shores

On 12th August the National Trust and Coastwise North joined forces to offer a Super Summer Shore Safari at Barricane Beach, Woolacombe. Timed to



Coastwise and NT guides at Barricane (Courtesy of Graham Hobbs)

take advantage of a very low tide, the safari started at 1 pm and lasted for a couple of hours. National Trust Beach Ranger Dave Lane said "A special day for a special place. As the tide falls it opens out into a rocky haven full of pools and shady places where the greatest variety

of animals can be found with a little help from us, waiting out the tide." . The event was free and open to all, and very popular.

Another Joint Effort

Visitors to Combe Martin Beach saw another fine example of co-operation between two coastal organisations working together on Saturday 14th August. Coastwise supported Combe Martin Museum Volunteers in a Shore Safari hosted by the Museum, to help people explore the rocky shore and discover the wonderful variety of shore life.

Shore Safari Guides Paula Ferris, Jim Monroe and Mavis Symons led three enthusiastic groups down to the shore to discover a wide assortment of creatures, including sea hares and their eggs, Velvet Swimming Crabs, Blennies, Flatfish and Scorpion Fish. Coastwise's Don Hills said "We found many additional species to add to my Beach Profile list."



Jim Monroe, who has been the mainstay of the Shore Safari team, works with potential Coastwise recruits at Combe Martin

Museum Learning Co-ordinator John Laverty said "The feedback from families returning after the event was great. There was so much enthusiasm and people were really enjoying themselves." Coastwise intends to continue these collaborative events.