

# Polzeath Marine Conservation Group

Newsletter 2017



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## 5th April - "The Pentireglaze Mine, Rise, Fall and Afterlife' by Tony Davies"

The room was completely full and everyone went home being extremely thankful that we didn't have to work in those awful conditions. Thanks Tony.

## 14th May – Foraging walk with Wild Thymes

A small group left the marine centre led by Megan Adams (Wild Thymes) to see what delicious treats we could find in our local area. We were stunned to find so many edible plants within a 15 minute walk of the centre; sea beet, pepper dulse and many others.



## Rockpool Rambles

Over the summer season we have had 9 rambles, with over 400 people getting stuck in seeing what weird and wonderful creatures they could find. Led by our experts, who we are forever grateful to and our volunteers we definitely found some wonderful ones this season from dahlia anemones, Risso crab, decorator crabs, to our one and only scorpion fish along with our regular residents like shore crabs and blennies. It was great to see so many families out on the rock pools here in Polzeath, with one mum saying they will remember this day the most out of all their holiday activities! Be sure to join us on our next rambles, dates to be confirmed and posted on social media.

## 29th April-Lobster release

On a blustery day at the end of April we joined forces with the National Lobster Hatchery for a lobster release at Trevone Bay. The lobster hatchery is contacted by local fisherman when they catch females with eggs, the larvae are then hatched and are reared by the hatchery for three months, then released into a suitable environment. Members of the public attending the event were able to name a lobster then release it into the sea. It was a great opportunity to learn about the amazing work at the hatchery and be part of the release to ensure that this important food source is sustained.



### 1st June– Marine Discovery Day

Once again we were blessed with a warm and sunny day that brought in the crowds for our marine discovery day. The beach was packed, we took 50 people to the rockpools for a ramble, held a sand sculpture competition, the RNLI and British Divers Marine Life Rescue put on demonstrations, and there were craft and animation sessions. As always many thanks to Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Your Shore Beach Rangers, National Trust, RNLI, British Divers Marine Life Rescue, Cornwall Seal Group, Surfers Against Sewage and Fathoms Free, for all their help, we really appreciate it!



### 1st August– Seaquest Public Sea Watch

This was a free event run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust. We met at The Rumps, which is a beautiful spot to look out to sea for any wildlife. We came equipped with binoculars to see if we could spot any wildlife and we were in luck, we saw a pod of dolphins far offshore which were given away by the amazing sight of diving gannets. This data was then recorded and put together to keep track of what wildlife was seen and a dataset made to look at the changes in habitats and behaviours.

### 23rd June- Big Seaweed Search

The UK has over 650 species of seaweed that provide an important habitat and food source for lots of marine life. Seaweed is also important to us humans as it protects the coast from wave action and storm damage as well as being used in foods, cosmetics and medicines. Fourteen seaweeds are surveyed to monitor increases in sea temperature, change in ocean acidity and spread of non native species. A group of volunteers surveyed the rock pools north of Pentireglaze Haven. We were surprised to discover most of the rocky shore was covered by serrated wrack and only a small amount of sugar kelp, spiral wrack, coral weed and more of the common seaweeds recorded. Our results were then forwarded to the Marine Conservation Society to be entered on the Natural History database.



### 9th August– Tony House

Tony gave us a really interesting talk about Cornwall's wildlife, particularly otters, it was a varied talk that really grabbed your attention. He had some amazing photos and videos to share and his passion for otters was catching. It was hard not to want to catch a glimpse of one afterwards whilst out and about. Thanks Tony for your enthusiasm.



### 25th July– St Minver School

Around 20 children and their teachers came along on a thankfully sunny day to be on the beach. As they arrived they attempted our mural quiz, with many children getting 100%. After this we headed down to the rock pools to see what we could find, the children were amazing at finding the creatures. We found one of almost everything on our spotter sheets which was great for the children as they got to see what they could find, and hopefully it's inspired them to come to the beach and keep rock pooling.



### 30th August—Rum Bar Event with SAS

Coming to the end of the season we thought it would be a good idea to put on an event that meant we could celebrate the summer just gone. Rum bar allowed us to host it in their great setting, we had the local band Sharknado performing, they were amazing and really brought in the crowds, despite the occasional downpour, but this didn't stop everyone enjoying the music and dancing, although I think the punch drink Rum bar provided helped. All in all it was a great success, we raised money for not only the marine centre but also Surfers Against Sewage and everyone had a brilliant time. The business in Polzeath really pulled out the stops for us for this event with many donating to our raffle prizes and the rum bar for donating the money made from the punch that they sold. We hope we can make this an annual event, so be sure to come if you missed out this year!

### 29th August- Fish People film

This was a great event that saw 40+ people come to the Tubestation for the second ever UK showing of the film Fish People. Sue Sayer kindly came along to introduce the film and showed us some great videos on seal protection. The film itself was incredible, with amazing clips of surfing, spear fishing and some incredible stories of people who's lives have been influenced by the sea. There was a second showing at the Wadebridge Regal Cinema for which we thank them for allowing us to use the cinema at cost price.

### 7th September— Big Beach Day Cornwall Council

We were joined by many with learning difficulties or autistic spectrum conditions for a big beach day. The weather held out and the tides permitted us to take some of the participants onto the rockpools, where much enjoyment was had from seeing the crabs that we caught! We set up a stall with minke whale bones, mermaids purses and some creatures from the rockpools to enable the less able to experience what can be found on Polzeath beach.

### BeachCare beach cleans

Each month Nick Pickles organises a beach clean on the beach at Polzeath. This is a great excuse for a get together and to pick up some of the rubbish that is forever being washed up and dropped on our beautiful beaches.

So far a total of 137 bags have been picked up during those days and 199 bags in total when adding the bags that locals pick up regularly.



### 16 September– Mega Beach Clean

A huge thank you to Sharps brewery and Barnecutts Bakery Rock for supplying beer, cakes and pasties for this hugely popular event.

This is a national event so this year unfortunately it was high tide in the South West at 3pm which is when all the cleans start, however this did not deter more than 80 people pick up 20 bags of litter from Polzeath and Baby Bay beaches.

### 25 October– Sarah Stevens-NT

Sarah gave us a really interesting talk about what the National Trust are doing to preserve and encourage wildlife to return to Trevoze Head as well as making the land pay for itself– This was very informative and made us all thankful that organisations such as the NT exist.

### Fundraising

A huge thank you must go to The Waterfront, Surfs Up, Cornish Rock Tors, Geoff (crazy golf), John (trampolines), Fish and Chip shop, Daymer Bay stores, Sharp's brewery and Barnecutts Bakery, who have supported us this year be it by donating prizes and sustenance, and a massive thank you to Tesco's for making us a Bags for Help grant, The Point at Polzeath and The Rum Bar for holding fund raising evenings, Fusion for donating the 5p carrier bag charge, PARA and The Lowlands Parish Council for donating money for our funds.

### A message from the chair

This is my first newsletter since taking over from the wonderful Jo- she has been an incredibly hard act to follow, I for one had no idea how many hours she has spent continuing to build and run PMCG and on behalf of all our members and visitors would like to thank her for her dedication in running the marine centre for the last few years with her wonderful group of volunteers.

We have decided that from now on we will produce a newsletter at the end of the year only as all events are on the website and Facebook. 2018's events are now organised and we have increased our rockpool rambles to 15 (some of which will start at the Valley Caravan Park, which is behind the marine centre, all details are in the events leaflet) as all 9 rambles last year were over subscribed, and we are introducing a pay the day before, for non members, to secure places on the rambles to avoid people being turned away when places have been booked and then not taken up on the day.

We are so lucky to have Nick Pickles and his BeachCare team to organise a monthly clean to help the never ending problem of keeping our beautiful beaches in Polzeath as free from marine litter, netting and plastics that is washed up on every tide as possible.

Thank you to the Tubestation for hosting our talks and to Carol Mould for all her support, and of course a massive thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers and our beach rangers, Lily and Sophie, without whom none of what has been achieved would be possible. We have been able to have the marine centre open 6 hours a day 7 days a week minimum, and put on more events than ever before this summer.

So finally, as the shorts have been put away (by most of us) and the village is quiet, we can reflect on what a wonderful summer we have all had and again say a huge thank you to all that have supported us in our quest, be it in giving your time or donating to our funds, to be able to keep us educating and spreading the marine conservation word.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

Vickie