

DOLPHIN NEWS



Polzeath Marine Centres Newsletter

August 2015



Polzeath Marine Discovery Day 2015

As with all outdoor events the greatest fear is what the weather is going to do on the day. And I was worried when we were forecast high winds! The wonderful people at the Tubestation though allow us to use their strong marquee as a back-up in case of bad weather so we knew it was highly unlikely we would have to cancel the event.

On the day the wind eased and after an initial downpour the sun came out and shone on us for the rest of the day, this meant that we could have stalls on the beach as well as a couple in the Tubestation marquee, and there were activities and a stall at the Marine Centre too. We littered the village with signs so everyone knew what was going on and where.

The sand sculpture competition had some fantastic entries making judging a hard task. The winner was the creator of a basking shark swallowing litter, a great creation as well as reminding us of the dangers of litter in our seas. Tina and Di had plenty of young helpers bring plasticine to life to create a short animation – the video will be online soon, keep checking the website and the facebook page. There were also arts 'n' crafts, egg cases to learn about, fishing for sustainable fish, quizzes and so much more. The silent auction was a great success raising over £700. This is fantastic as it goes towards the annual running costs of the Marine Centre. The grand finale was the RNLI beach talk and rescue demo with 70 people listening, watching and learning.

The aim of the event is to get people engaged with our coast and marine life and I feel that we really did achieve that.

A massive thank you to all the organisations, their staff and volunteers who made this event possible.

Marine Discovery Day has become an annual event in Polzeath, started by Cornwall Wildlife Trust under the Your Shore project. Since then the baton has been passed onto the Polzeath Marine Conservation Group (PMCG) which is entirely made up of volunteers and members. As a PMCG volunteer I was keen to help but restricted on time available; very kindly my boss, Lead Ranger Mike Simmonds, allowed me to plan and organise the event within my role as Ranger with the National Trust as part of our support of PMCG. This year was the second year I had organised Marine Discovery Day and I am now ready to pass the baton onto the next willing volunteer....would anyone like to take up this challenge? If so, please get in touch with me sarahpmcg@outlook.com
Sarah Stevens, PMCG volunteer and National Trust Ranger



(More Photographs on the centre pages).

Meet the Crew—Rosie

If you don't know me already, I first volunteered for the Marine Centre as a Seasonal Warden in 2012 and absolutely loved it. The position was a joint one with the National Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust and I got so much invaluable experience from all of the organisations. For the marine group this varied from running events, helping with surveys and even keeping an aquarium going! As the group is a small organisation there are always loads of different jobs that you can help with, from admin to fundraising, events and of course, running the marine centre itself so it is great if you want to focus on one area or gain experience in loads of different ones.

After the season was over I carried on with the National Trust until Christmas and eventually said my goodbyes, which turned out not to be goodbyes at all. After a couple of years in which I squished a bit of travelling, lived in Cape Verde helping at a turtle project and did a very intense Masters course I returned... After a few months volunteering for the National Trust, helping with some marine group events, doing loads of scrub bashing and looking after a chunk of the South West Coast Path I eventually got an actual paid job!

I am now a very proud Park Ranger for Perran Sands Holiday Park, near Perranporth. I will be focusing on delivering wildlife and bushcraft events for the owners and guests with occasional help from Cornwall Wildlife Trust who do a lot of habitat management work in the area. If you have never been to Penhale Dunes they are very beautiful and particularly important on a European level for plant and butterfly species, the silver-studded blue, not forgetting home to St Piran's Oratory. Well worth a visit.

I am so happy to be in North Cornwall and doing something I love. I would like to thank everyone at the Marine Centre for the great experience, support and well wishes. I couldn't have done it without you, volunteering was worth so much more than anything I could write down in a CV.

Rosie



Rosie on the beach

AGM 2015

A cute lil AGM was held on 8th April - we sadly said goodbye to Sarah as Vice Chair - Sarah has done a phenomenal amount of work during her year as VC and we are thrilled she will carry doing much of it this year despite stepping down from committee duties - thanks for everything Sarah.

We welcomed Jane as VC - our baking goddess :) and then the rest of the team are as before, super awesome and amazingly still full of energy and excitement for our plans for 2015.

POLPIP Grey Seal Survey

POLPIP stands for Polzeath Photo Identification Project and has now been running for four years. Together with the Cornwall Seal Group, we conduct boat surveys along the coast, from Trevoze Head to Boscastle, of all grey seal encountered. As many grey seals as possible are photographed so that individuals can be identified from their unique spot patterns. Whilst looking for the seals, all other sea life encountered is recorded and mapped.

If you can help with this survey please contact Sarah Millward (sas.millward@gmail.com)

Survey dates for the rest of this year are as follows;

August 12th

November 12th

September 16th

December 14th

October 14th



The crew on the Atlantic Diver in June, (Photo: T Robinson)



Grey seal off Polzeath, (Photo: C Selway)



Gannet off Tintagel, (Photo: camelbirder)



Marine Day Photographs

(all photographs by Jane Pickles)





Migrant Watch

Usually when nature watchers talk about migrants, we instantly think of wildebeest and zebra following the rains on the Serengeti or birds like the swallow flying thousands of miles from Europe to southern Africa but what about insects. Surprisingly a large number of insects undertake enormous journeys, the most famous being the monarch butterfly which migrates from Central America to the north of North America and back.

In Europe, two species of insects are often seen, sometimes in large numbers, as they move from Africa to Northern Europe; the painted lady butterfly and the hummingbird hawk-moth. These are fairly easy to identify and your help in reporting your sightings to Butterfly Conservation would be gratefully received.



Painted lady



Hummingbird hawk-moth

National Moth Night

One weekend a year entomologists invite everyone to come and see the multitude of moths that can be found in your local area. This years theme is migrant moths and will take place on September 10th to 12th. Please check the local press for details of events in North Cornwall.



Can You Help?

Can you spend a couple of hours a month or more to help man the Marine Centre or help the group in some other way, like leading walks, holding fundraising events etc? If so, please contact us. We are always on the look out for enthusiastic people. Your rewards will be many including the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference as well as cake.



Centre Revamp

If you have visited the Marine Centre in the last few weeks, you could not fail to notice the fantastic work that has been carried out by some of our dedicated volunteers. The whole of the inside of the building has been given a new coat of environmentally friendly paint and the displays have been redone. Work on the outside of the building will start soon.

If you could help please contact the Marine Centre.

Well done everyone involved.

What have you seen?



Why not drop into the Marine Centre and tell us about it. Your sightings will be forwarded to the local Records Centre and used to enhance our knowledge of the area.



Events

Wednesday 5th August:

Get Crafty!

Our popular marine themed arts and crafts are back by popular demand! From strandline creations to rockpool wonders, everyone can enjoy getting elbow deep in recycled craft creations.

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm.

Meet: Polzeath Marine Centre, opposite pitch and putt green. SW 936 788.

Wednesday 12th August:

Get Crafty!

From strandline creations to rockpool wonders, everyone can enjoy getting elbow deep in recycled craft creations.

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm.

Meet: Polzeath Marine Centre, opposite pitch and putt green. SW 936 788.

Friday 14th August:

Rockpool Ramble!

Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm.

Meet: Polzeath Marine Centre, opposite pitch and putt green. SW 936 788.

Contact: Booking essential on 07779 896650 or email polzeathmc@gmail.com

Bring: Suitable clothing and waterproof footwear (but not crocs or flipflops). Small buckets are also useful..

Tuesday 18th August:

Rockpool Ramble!

Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm.

Contact: Booking essential on 07779 896650 or email polzeathmc@gmail.com

Bring: Suitable clothing and waterproof footwear (but not crocs or flipflops). Small buckets are also useful..

Wednesday 19th August:

BeachCare clean.

Join Polzeath BeachCare team out on the beach for the monthly clean and survey.

Cost: Free.

Time: 9:30am.

Meet: On the beach!

Contact: Booking not essential.

Wednesday 19th August:

Get Crafty!

From strandline creations to rockpool wonders, everyone can enjoy getting elbow deep in recycled craft creations.

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm.

Meet: Polzeath Marine Centre, opposite pitch and putt green. SW 936 788.

Wednesday 26th August:

Get Crafty!

From strandline creations to rockpool wonders, everyone can enjoy getting elbow deep in recycled craft creations.

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm.

Meet: Polzeath Marine Centre, opposite pitch and putt green. SW 936 788.

Friday 28th August:

Rockpool Ramble!

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm.

Contact: Booking essential on 07779 896650 or email polzeathmc@gmail.com

Bring: Suitable clothing and waterproof footwear (but not crocs or flipflops). Small buckets are also useful..

Saturday 19th September:

Polzeath Mega Beach Clean

Help BeachCare, National Trust and PMCG volunteers to clean the stunning beaches at Polzeath as part of Clean Cornwall Week. All equipment provided

Time: 3:00pm.

Meet: Polzeath Marine Centre, opposite pitch and putt green. SW 936 788. (Or on the beach if you happen to be running late....)

Contact Us

For more information about the group or book events;

Polzeath Marine Conservation Group,
Polzeath Marine Centre
Coronation Gardens
Dunders Hill
Polzeath
Cornwall
PL27 6TA

07779 896650

polzeathmc@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at

<http://>

polzeathmarineconservation.com

