

# The Shingle Issue



Spring and Summer 2014

Newsletter of the Dungeness National Nature Reserve

# Issue

No 14

## THE SHINGLE ISSUE

**WELCOME** to the *Shingle Issue*, the newsletter for the Dungeness National Nature Reserve.

Read on to find out more about some of the exciting projects from Dungeness to Greatstone.

## Surveys will shine a light on what people like about Marsh area



**F**rom Greatstone around Dungeness to Camber and Rye Bay are highly popular with people enjoying the coastline and tourism is crucial to the local economy in many aspects.

With much of the area being internationally important for wildlife some access management is needed so people can enjoy themselves, businesses can thrive, residents aren't disturbed and sensitive habitats can be protected.

Over the next 12 months Blackwood-Bayne Consulting, working on behalf of Shepway and Rother District Councils, Natural England and Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, will be conducting onsite and

online surveys looking at:

- Where people come from, how they get here and how long they stay
- Where visitors go, what they do, and how much they spend when they are here.

We are interested too in how local residents enjoy the coastline and it is really important that as many local people as possible tell us their views. The website link to get involved in this online survey is:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/dungenessvisitors](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/dungenessvisitors)

For further information please contact Sharon Bayne at Blackwood-Bayne Consulting. You can email via [survey@blackwoodbayne.co.uk](mailto:survey@blackwoodbayne.co.uk)



Making simple changes to keep our beaches and seas clean



In 2015 a new EU Directive comes into force, which tightens the standards required for our sea bathing water quality. This will affect all beaches that are designated as "bathing waters".

There are 55 around the country that have been identified as being at risk of missing the new targets unless further action is taken. "Sufficient" Bathing Water quality is predicted at Littlestone and Bexhill and the Hastings Bathing Water is predicted as having "poor" quality.

Southern Water and the Environment Agency have made significant investments in the affected areas. As part of this work the Environment Agency have commissioned Hastings Voluntary Action and Rother Voluntary Action to manage a community engagement project – Clean Seas Please!

If the new standards are not met then there will be notices posted at the affected beach which advise against bathing. This could significantly impact our tourist towns and those that use the sea for leisure. Our sea water could fail on the amount of bacteria in the water, but if we all consider the following changes



together we can make a difference:

- What we flush down the toilet – only the three "p's" (paper, pee and pooh)
- Check and empty septic tanks regularly
- Put our waste food, fats, oils, and grease in the bin rather than down the sink
- Only allow rain water to enter the surface water drains
- Take a look at the way our homes are plumbed into the drainage.

With the implementation of the new Bathing Water Directive getting ever closer we would like to ask you to help: Sign the Clean Seas Please pledge and ask your family, friends and work colleagues to do the same. It is quick and easy to do, just follow this link: [www.cleanseasplease.net](http://www.cleanseasplease.net).

Consider taking action with regard to the list above

Follow us on Twitter – @cleansseasplease and like our Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/cleansseasplease](http://www.facebook.com/cleansseasplease).

Publicise a newsletter article in any staff or other publication you may be involved with, please contact [jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org](mailto:jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org) for more information.

## SOUND MIRRORS OPEN DAY

### Sunday 20 July 2014 10am-5pm

At the back of Lade Pit are the three Listening Devices built in the 1920s and 30s as part of a national early warning system against enemy aircraft. This is one of only two sites in the world where you can see all three designs. The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership have arranged with the landowner, CEMEX an opportunity for residents and visitors to visit the site under your own steam as part of an Open Day.

The RMCP will be present all day to talk you through them, give out free information and help with any inquires. We will ask for a donation per person to cover our costs for the day.

LEADER: Owen Leyshon. Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934 or 07770 670316). MEET: We recommend parking in Lade car park on Coast Drive (half way between the Pilot Pub and Romney Sands, TN29 9PE

(TR 085 208) and follow the temporary signs to the island. Staff and volunteers will be positioned at the bridge and on the island. Last entry 4.30pm.

DISTANCE: 3 miles in total there and back!



# EDF's shingle benchmark success

EDF Energy has been awarded the Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark in recognition of its work to protect the unique flora and fauna of the vegetated shingle around the Dungeness B power station.

Station director, Martin Pearson, said: "I am thrilled with this award. It is recognition of our commitment to work with our many local partners including Natural England and the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, to protect the very special environment around Dungeness B."

The Biodiversity Benchmark Award enables organisations across the UK to assess the standard of their conservation management, improve their environmental management procedures and demonstrate their commitment to enhancing

biodiversity in support of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). It is composed of a set of detailed requirements which an organisation must be able to meet.

Peter Dorans, corporate relations manager of The Wildlife Trusts, said: "I am delighted EDF Energy has gained the Biodiversity Benchmark certification at Dungeness B.

"The company should celebrate its continued commitment to biodiversity, which is shown by five of its UK sites now reaching the Benchmark.

"Industry has a part to play in maintaining and restoring the natural environment and, with careful management, wildlife will flourish, even on important energy infrastructure sites such as this."



Photo: John Bennett, chief executive of the Kent Wildlife Trust, visited Dungeness B to present the award to Christine Blythe, EDF Energy's biodiversity manager and Robert Starbuck, environmental compliance coordinator at Dungeness B.

## Hats off to our beach side volunteers

Shepway District has a wonderful stretch of Kent coastline from the chalk cliffs at Folkestone down to the shingle landscape of Dungeness.

Throughout the year the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, with a number of volunteers, help, clear rubbish off the tideline from Littlestone, Greatstone, Lade, Lydd on Sea and down to Dungeness.

Over a thousand bags of rubbish are removed from these beaches every year, but we would like to highlight seven hard working volunteers who give up many hours every week to bag rubbish – Tom and Chris Ryan, plus Peter and Mary Liddell, clear rubbish at Littlestone, Grahame Matthews at Greatstone Beach, Paul Alford at Lade and Lydd on sea and David Gower on Dungeness.

This is on top of the work the RMCP does across the Dungeness National Nature Reserve with the part time litter warden at Dungeness and the Veolia seasonal litter warden.

Owen Leyshon, RMCP said: "The work of volunteers is invaluable and I would like to give special thanks not just to these seven volunteers, but to all residents who roll up their sleeves and make a positive difference to the place we all work and live in – and to make the district a better place."

**If you wish to help out and make a difference on the beaches at Littlestone to Dungeness, get in touch with Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 mail@rmcp.co.uk**

## Dunes are vital part of natural defences

Back in early December 2013, the east coast of Britain experienced a tidal surge which caused significant tidal flooding in Lincolnshire, East Anglia and in north Kent.

At Greatstone Dunes the sea defences are the dunes themselves in addition to sand fencing on the seaward side of the dunes. The tidal surge resulted in large chunks of sand being washed away behind the sand fencing and the dunes creating vertical sand dune edges.

Shepway District Council has been

carrying out repairs on the sand fencing over the winter 13/14 and that will continue with assistance from the Environment Agency.

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership has been carrying out further Sea Buckthorn clearance in the winter with help from volunteers to create a wider biodiversity to the dunes and improving access in places for residents and visitors. We will need to return next autumn to tackle regrowth in places with as much help as possible.

However, all the partners involved in the dunes from Shepway District Council, Natural England, Environment Agency and the RMCP ask all residents to respect the dunes and not extend their gardens or try some landscaping or fly tip garden material in the dunes which they don't own.

**For more information, please contact Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or mail@rmcp.co.ukor visit the website www.rmcp.co.uk**

# Guided walk dates 2014...

Sunday 1 June 2.00pm

## IT'S A DESERT OUT THERE!

An opportunity to take a wander out across the shingle of the National Nature Reserve (NNR) to discover the wildlife which lives at Dungeness, but also how the landscape has been formed over centuries by the sea and the animals which have munched across it! Suggested donation £2 appreciated. LEADER: Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934 or 07770 670316). MEET: Old Lighthouse car park, Dungeness Road, Dungeness (TR 088 167) – Sat Nav – TN29 9NB. DISTANCE: 2 miles (2.5 hours).



of plants which grow across Dungeness. LEADER: Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership 01797 367934 or 07770 670316. MEET: Car park, Old Lighthouse, Dungeness, TN29 9NB (TR 089 169). DISTANCE: 2 miles (2 hours).

Friday 13 June 6.30pm

## THE FLOWERS OF DUNGENESS

A walk with the warden around this fascinating National Nature Reserve to see some of the hundreds of species

Sunday 28 September 2.00pm  
**BROWN AND CRISPY**  
Take an opportunity to look at what will probably be a brown, crispy and dry shingle desert like landscape and what has survived and what has not. Suggested donation £2 appreciated. LEADER: Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934 or 07770 670316). MEET: Old Lighthouse car park, Dungeness Road, Dungeness (TR 088 167) – Sat Nav – TN29 9NB. DISTANCE: 2 miles (2.5 hours).

## ...and dates for beachcleans too!

Sunday 27 April 10am

### BEACHCLEAN AT DUNGENESS POINT

Although there has been much effort over the winter by volunteers, residents and the part time litter warden at Dungeness, this sweep around the Point to the Lifeboat Station always manages to collect sacks of rubbish. Please come along and help out – more hands will make light work. MEET: New Lighthouse (the black and white stripy one), Dungeness - although we will move off north past the fishing boats pretty quickly.

Sunday 21 September 10am

### NATIONAL BEACHCLEAN – DUNGENESS POINT

Come along and help record the rubbish, then bag it and remove it from the beach. We are into our 18<sup>th</sup> year of completing the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Beachwatch and the section we will do will take a few hours...Cakes and biscuits will be used as a tempter and we will also provide the gloves and litterpickers and the essential clipboards and pencils!! LEADER: Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or 07770 670316. MEET: At the red and white barrier between the Old Lighthouse and the Power Station fence-line at TN29 9NB (TR 089 169) at Dungeness Point (NNR).

## How to get in touch with us

### Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership

For day to day issues on the Dungeness NNR from Dungeness to Greatstone please call the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership first. Reports of 4x4 vehicles, motorbikes, quad-bikes, flytipping, rubbish, management work, volunteering, film crews, group bookings and wildlife sightings.

Owen Leyshon 01797 367934

mail@rmcp.co.uk Website [www.rmcp.co.uk](http://www.rmcp.co.uk)

[www.dungeness-nnr.co.uk](http://www.dungeness-nnr.co.uk)

### Natural England

Permission and paperwork for any works on the Dungeness NNR and the wider SSSI land.

Please call Jo Dear on 03000 604776 or

Becky Plunkett (NNR Senior Reserves Manager) on 03000 604755.

### Other useful numbers

Dungeness RSPB – Part of the Dungeness NNR.

Site manager – Martin Randall 01797 320588.

Educational Groups – Heather Chantler 01797 322666

The Shingle Issue is produced with the support of:



The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership is managed by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership with funding from Shepway District Council, Natural England, Kent County Council, Magnox and EDF.