

The Shingle Issue



Spring 2006
Newsletter of the Dungeness National Nature Reserve

No 2

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.

A new birdwatching hide built with money from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Hanson Environment Fund.

New trail and better habitat promised in bigger RSPB reserve

THE RSPB has opened a new addition to the Dungeness Nature Reserve, part of the bigger National Nature Reserve. A total of 14 hectares of the former Hanson quarry site were handed over to the RSPB by Hanson PLC, following

restoration for the benefit of wildlife.

Close consultation between RSPB and Hanson has resulted in the pits being restored as flourishing wildlife habitats. The project will also benefit people – with the installation of a hide, viewing screen, trails, picnic area and car park, all of which have been generously funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Hanson Environment Fund.

The final phase of the work, the creation of a circular trail through the willow scrub next to the hide will be completed at the end of this winter and interpretation panels will be put in place later in the summer.

The new viewing facilities give excellent views of large numbers of wildfowl and waders on the ARC gravel pit and are already proving popular with our visitors. It is no longer necessary for birdwatchers to stop on the busy Dungeness Road to view the lake.

For those wanting to view the site, the entrance to the car park is opposite Boulderwall Farm.



Help us to pick up the pieces

THE Romney Marsh Countryside Project, in partnership with a number of organisations and businesses, is looking to finance a part time litter warden for the Dungeness Point starting in spring 2006.

This is an important issue as the volume of rubbish which is found across the Point from a number of sources, namely, shipping, tidal and visitors can be quite considerable.

The tonnage of rubbish collected by the litter warden on Dungeness Point will be monitored and the individual will be employed by the Romney Marsh Countryside Project.

Please find an insert within this envelope with more details of this project. Contact Owen Leyshon, Dungeness Shingle and Wetland Officer on 01797 367934 for an informal chat.



Make a date by the lighthouse to join our Beachclean

THE first beachclean of 2006 organised by the Romney Marsh Countryside Project will be on Sunday 23rd April.

Please meet at the Dungeness New Lighthouse at 11am.

Both British Nuclear Group and British Energy are conducting a couple of beachcleans themselves in partnership with the Romney

Marsh Countryside Project in front of the power stations to reduce the amount of rubbish on the tideline and along the perimeter walls and fences this spring and summer.

For more details, please contact Owen Leyshon, Dungeness Shingle and Wetland Officer on 01797 367934.

Bringing a new edge to parking at Dungeness

IN the early spring, the general parking area at the Railway Café and Old Lighthouse, plus four laybys near to the power station, the Britannia pub and the Sanctuary will be reprofiled and edged to create better parking facilities and access.

The work will be conducted as quickly

as possible and we hope with minimum disruption to residents. Funding for this project has been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Nature.

For more information contact Owen Leyshon, Dungeness Shingle and Wetland Officer on 01797 367934.



Education centre ready for school visits

THE brand new Environment and Education Centre at RSPB Dungeness Nature Reserve is now open and taking bookings for school visits and community events.

The purpose built classroom and exhibition area can easily accommodate pupils from all Key Stages and our team of fully qualified field teachers is able to deliver a range of curriculum subjects using the indoor and outdoor classrooms.

The centre has been equipped with vital education equipment, both for indoor and outdoor use, having been generously funded by the Countryside Agency through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. During holidays and at weekends the education centre will be the base for a



Pond dipping is one of the many activities to be enjoyed at the nature reserve.

range of events and activities ranging from family pond dipping days to adult bird watching courses to name just two.

The classroom and exhibition area is also available for hire for

talks, art displays and local events.

Please drop into the visitor centre to view the facilities or call the reserve on (01797) 320588 for more details.

Visitor numbers pass 600k mark

THE number of visitors coming to Dungeness has been steadily increasing each year. Visitors come for a number of reasons whether for the wildlife, the railway, to fish, to eat in the pubs or just enjoy the distinctive landscape of Dungeness.

The Romney Marsh Countryside Project placed

traffic down counters on the Dungeness Estate road throughout the summer and into the autumn to record car movements.

Further visitor surveys including the foot passengers on the train have indicated the number of visitors to Dungeness Point can be estimated at around 610,000 people each year.





Photo – English Nature.

Impressive moth is unique to Dungeness

THE impressive Sussex Emerald moth is a speciality of the Dungeness area, as it is not found anywhere else in Britain. Until recently, it was only found within the compounds of the power station, but in recent years a colony has been discovered at Lydd-on-sea. It is hoped that this moth which flies in July will colonise other parts of the National Nature Reserve, where the abundant white flowered plant Wild Carrot grows.

Black bombers are sign bee is warming to Marsh climate



Photo – David Walker, DBO.

FOUR Violet Carpenters, large black bumble bees with beautiful violet sheened wings, were seen at Dungeness during last summer.

These rare bees originate from the Continent and breed in old tree trunks. With warmer summers, this species might become a more frequent visitor to our shores. Keep an eye out for this impressive bee through the summer.

How to get in touch with us

Romney Marsh Countryside Project

For day to day issues on the National Nature Reserve from Dungeness to Greatstone, reports of 4x4 vehicles, motorbikes on the shingle, information relating to the HLF bid, volunteering, and film crews, please contact Owen Leyshon. Tel 01797 367934 Email owenleyshon@rmcp.co.uk Website www.rmcp.co.uk

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

General reports of 4x4 vehicles driving across the shingle on the RSPB reserve including end of Dengemarsh Road, information relating to HLF projects, volunteering on the RSPB reserve and educational group visits please contact

Bob Gomes, Site Manager

Tel 01797 320588

Email bob.gomes@rspb.org.uk

Website www.rspb.org.uk

The contact for the educational groups is Heather Chantler, Lifelong Learning Officer 01797 320588 or 01797 322666.

English Nature

For activities on the Site of Special Scientific Interest which require consent from English Nature please contact Brian Banks Tel 01233 811212 Email brian.banks@english-nature.org.uk

Kent Police (Lydd police station)

For reports of vehicles driving over the shingle. Tel 01233 611055

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