

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024



About Us



The Polzeath Marine Conservation Group are a volunteer led group of individuals that are focused on marine environmental education in Polzeath. We are passionate about raising awareness to both the wider public and our locals of the importance of conservation on Polzeath beach.



This year we were more focused than ever on getting the public engaged in the events and activities we provide. From beachcombing to rockpool rambles to plaque painting, we loved seeing everybody so involved in what we do.

We thank our enthusiastic volunteers for all their helping hands over the summer, we couldn't do it without you!

Now, have a look at what we've gotten up to...



SUMMARY

- We carried out our usual events over the summer including beachcombing and rockpool rambles, with our rockpool rambles being fully booked again!
- Monthly beach cleans were available for anyone and everyone to join.
- Three schools visited us and got stuck in with our educational activities.
- Plaque painting was extremely popular again with our new paintings displayed on our fence.
- We started up Crafty Wednesdays this year with help from Katy, and they have been a huge success!
- One marine survey was done in June, the tides were not on our side this year.
- Our centre was open all summer and was visited by 2263 people!



MARINE CENTRE

Our centre was open 91 days over the summer from the start of June to the end of August. We had a whopping 2263 people visit us over the summer. As usual, we had plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy at the centre. We love greeting everyone that comes and visits us and talking about the importance of marine conservation.



Plaque painting was very popular again this year, and our new additions are up on the fence for everyone to see!

Some new displays were made as well. Monica has added more details to her 'poly s' display and Dis has ensured the surfboard photo opp is kept in pristine condition. Our student ranger has been busy inside the centre, keeping it clean, updating old posters and the sightings board and looking after the residents in the aquarium.



Thank you to our volunteers for all the help they do to maintain our centre!

BEACHCOMBING

We had six beachcombing sessions over the summer with all of them being fully booked! We kept the numbers limited to 10 people to keep them controlled, and overall had over 70 people attend! Dis did another excellent job at running the sessions in Baby Bay and found lots of amazing creatures within the strandline such as: cuttlefish, mermaids purses, seaweeds, jellyfish, shorecrabs, anemones, and more!



Everyone involved was engaged and excited to learn more about the richness of the intertidal zone here on Polzeath beach. We had new visitors and even some returning ones, it was nice to see some familiar faces!



ROCKPOOL RAMBLES

Our rockpool rambles were extremely popular once again this year with all of them being fully booked! Overall, we had six sessions over summer with 105 people attending. We didn't have the best weather, but we made the most of the rain! Nevertheless, we found lots of interesting species...



Spiny Spider Crab
(*Maja squinado*)



Spiny Starfish
(*Marthasterias glacialis*)



Spotted Dogfish Egg Case
(*Scyliorhinus stellaris*)



St Pirans Hermit Crab
(*Clibanarius erythropus*)



By The Wind Sailor
(*Velella velella*)



Red Velvet Sea Slug
(*Rostanga rubra*)



Common Brittle Star
(*Ophiothrix fragilis*)



Sea Hare
(*Aplysia punctata*)

Everybody was very respectful of our marine life and it was great to show people the locals that live in our rockpools. We noticed lots of Sargassum seaweed in the pools, which led to lots of the pools being suffocated. We also noticed an increase in sea hares, with one rock having eight individuals living on it! There's always new and interesting species to see.

BEACH CLEANS

We continued our beach cleans once a month in collaboration with Keep Britain Tidy. Once again, there was lots of rubbish to be collected from the beach and many buckets were filled! We had 134 people join us in cleaning our precious beach!



As always, there was lots of interesting items that get washed up on our shores, including, some old cans! They are pretty much in perfect condition, which goes to show that stuff doesn't break down as quickly as you think...

We had plenty of people doing independent beach cleans as well! We have started offering our equipment out to the public to try and encourage people to clean up after themselves and to look after our beach.

Regardless, our volunteers are out almost everyday tirelessly tidying up our beach and helping conserve our coastline!

CRAFTY WEDNESDAYS

This year we started up our crafty sessions again! With help from Katy, our new recruit, we held six crafty sessions every Wednesday at the centre. Here are some of the things we made...



From clay models, to felt anemones, to seashell mobiles, there was lots of flowing creativity all inspired from Polzeath beach! Thank you to all our volunteers for all their help with these sessions and for everybody coming to support the centre!

PLAQUE PAINTING

Plaque painting was very popular again this year with over 100 plaques being painted, which were either put on the fence or taken home!



STUDENT RANGER

Our student ranger this year was Chloe who was undertaking a placement year on her Marine Biology degree at the University of Plymouth. She worked with us for five days a week, dedicating her time to encouraging people to learn more about marine life. She welcomed everyone into the centre, answering peoples questions and assisting with events, plaque paintings and crafty Wednesdays!



Having a student volunteer is very important to us as it allows us to have an extra pair of hands over the busiest time of year. Chloe was extremely enthusiastic about marine conservation and was keen to share her enthusiasm with others!

AQUARIUM

Once again, our aquarium was up and running this summer for everyone to see the diverse range of creatures we can see in our rockpools. These aren't often seen up close, so it's great to show people and an amazing opportunity to learn the species that live along our coast.

Here are some of the things you may have seen in our aquarium...



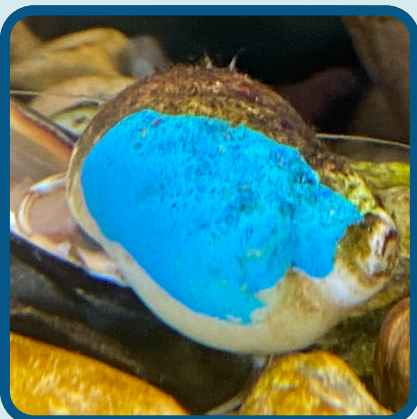
Strawberry Anemone
(*Actinia fragacea*)



Common Prawn
(*Palaemon serratus*)



Snakelocks Anemone
(*Anemonia viridis*)



Common Hermit Crab
(*Pagurus bernhardus*)



Shore Rockling
(*Gaidropsarus mediterraneus*)



Shorecrab
(*Carcinus maenas*)

NEW MEMBERSHIP PAGE

One of the tasks given to our student ranger this year was to improve our membership page on our website and to make the membership option more accessible to the public.

After much hard work, the new membership page is now live and active and now anyone can become a member with us! Becoming a member is a donation towards the centre and means we have your annual support to help us keep running!

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Donate

Your donation to the Polzeath Marine Conservation Group enables us to continue our vital work in educating the public about protecting and conserving the marine environment of Polzeath and it's marine life.

Donate



Made with POWR

Membership options available:

Single (£5)
Family (£20)
Business (£50)

All donations go towards keeping the centre open.



OTHER THINGS WE HAVE DONE...



2024 SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

We want to say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us this 2024 season. Our team of knitters, beachcombers, rockpool rambblers, craft makers and painters have worked tirelessly over the summer to help our centre keep running.



**THANK YOU
FOR ANOTHER
AMAZING YEAR!**

