



NEWSLETTER 2022

POLZEATH MARINE CENTRE

SUMMARY

- Finally, covid restrictions have been lifted for this summer and the marine centre is getting back to normality.
- The outside area was as busy as previously with the plaque painting remaining hugely popular and the photo surf board being the background hundreds of holiday photos.
- Rockpool rambles were fully booked again this year and are being kept to a maximum of 25 people.
- Dis has continued beachcombing with small groups along the strandline.
- Five school visits went ahead. We will definitely be offering more of these sessions in the future. We also held a marine discovery day for the Plymouth Scout group.
- As ever I can't thank the small group of volunteers enough for all the hours they have given of their time to support the group. None of what we achieve would be possible without every single one of them.



MARINE CENTRE

- Sharky stands tall in all of its glory, having survived the winter. We have a new polystyrene surf display this year, headed up by Monica, encouraging tourists not to buy a polystyrene body board but a PE or wooden one.
- Claire created new educational signs about sharks, dolphins, herring gulls, anemones and grey seals. Hopefully, they will last more than one season.
- Additionally, we have Dis' hair elastic dolphin sculpture up, as well as his crab. His photo booth surfboard continues to be hugely popular for photo opportunities, especially amongst the adults and they will all be lit up with the rest of the village for Christmas.

Polystyrene Display



New Signs

BEACHCOMBING

- 30 people joined in with our beachcombing events lead by Dis. The strandline in Baby Bay was searched to see what could be found with the attendees amazed at finds such as mermaids purses— shark and ray egg cases— Sea glass, cuttlefish bones, by the wind sailors and so much more. They were also kept engrossed by Dis' stories of marine animals' lives with masses of facts some of which are rather gory!



ROCKPOOL RAMBLES

- Rockpool rambles were kept at a maximum of 25 people over 11 events. We feel that this is a more ethical way of rock pooling, even though many families are disappointed as the sessions are always fully booked. We took 254 people down to the rockpools where we encouraged our visitors to enjoy the rockpools while respecting and protecting the creatures and plants living there.
- We did notice this year an increase in species, such as finding our first ever sea urchins and a Slim Aesop. However, during the main summer holidays we found that the species suffered from the extreme heat and appeared rather drowsy, but things seem back to normal now temperatures are down.



Slim Aesop



4 Sheep Sea Slugs



Sea Urchin

BEACH CLEANS

- Once again the sea has returned to the beaches a mass of assorted waste, from whole bottles, cans, fishermen's boxes, and lobster pots to minuscule pieces of plastic and rope. One of our volunteers Sarah has collected 20 amniotic membrane perforators! This has kept our volunteers and local beach cleaners extremely busy every day of the year. Beach clean events encourage people visiting the area to help in the never-ending clean up. We organised 2 mega beach cleans where the wonderful Barnecutts have provided pasties and cakes for all the cleaners.



RANGER

- Our volunteer beach ranger this summer was Claire who had just finished her degree at Exeter university's Falmouth campus, in which she gained a first. She worked with us for 4 days a week and brought a very different vibe to the marine centre. Her enthusiasm was contagious not only to the other volunteers but also to the more than 4000 visitors to the marine centre most of whom were just popping down the lane to have a look and before they knew it were being enthralled by Claire's descriptions of all the goings on in the aquarium!
- We have purchased a caravan, so Claire was lucky enough to spend the whole summer on Robbie Love's camp site. We loved having Claire working with us and wish her luck in her masters degree in the coming year,



Common Hermit Crab



AQUARIUM

- The aquarium was as popular as ever this year. It is one of our best educational tools at the centre.
- When we brought the 1st large stones with a Strawberry and Snakelocks anemone up to the aquarium in April we didn't realize that there was a tiny gem on the underneath of one of the rocks much smaller than a little fingernail. We now have two gem anemones, one beadlet anemone, one daisy anemone, seven prawns, four common hermit crabs, one St Pirans hermit crab and one shore crab. The many snails spent most of the days eating the algae off the glass which not only helped to keep the tank sparkling clean but also enabled our visitors to see them under their shells which can't be done in the rock pools.
- But there seems to be new creatures found in the tank every week. Families and children have really enjoyed feeding the animals.



Strawberry and Gem Anemones

SURVEYS

- Nine rockpool surveys were conducted this year, with all the data being inputted into the Cornwall Wildlife Trust Shoresearch app. and this information is then put onto a national data base.
- If anyone would like to join us on these surveys please let us know.



PLAQUE AND SHELL PAINTING

- We offered plaque and shell painting daily and this as last year was massively popular with some exceptional paintings by both children and adults. These were displayed on the fence with some of 2020's batch being displayed on totem poles. As more than 400 were painted some will be recycled for next year and some added to the totem poles.
- We have been donated a large quantity of scallop shells by Porthilly shellfish. A massive thank you to them. Children have been using colourful permanent markers to paint them and taken them home.



2022 DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

- A massive thank you to everyone who has helped to make 2022 such a successful year. Our team of knitters, craft makers and painters have been working frantically all year, so a massive thank you to Jane Marsh, Corrine Tourney, Kathy Alford, Sarah Rutherford, Claire Spence, Susannah Melvin and Vickie Toland.
- To our maintenance crew Dis Disbury, Mike Alford and Hugh Toland for the many hours not only spent on general maintenance but also designing new activities for our visitors. The marine centre was opened for a minimum of 6 hours a day 7 days a week throughout the holidays, and 15 events were carried out so thank you to Janet Deane, Jules and Dis Disbury, Tina Robinson, Sarah Rutherford, Kathy Alford, Monica Harper, Suzanna Melvin, Hugh and Vickie Toland and of course Claire for enabling us to do this.
- The group could obviously not continue without funding and we thank The co-op, Easy fundraising, Barnecutts and of course everyone who has supported us by becoming a member, attending our events and by giving donations.

THANK YOU TO VICKIE

We also want to give a huge thank you to Vickie Toland for serving as chair for 6 years. She has been an inspiration to all of us. Her hard work and dedication can clearly be seen in how much the marine center has grown since her time here. Now it is time for a new chapter as Jan Deane takes over as the new chair.



THE MOTLEY CREW

