

VMCAs, Local Communities and Conservation

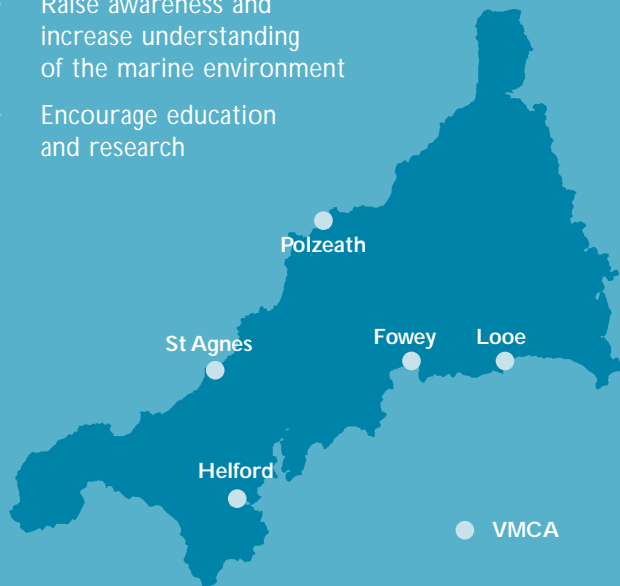


Cornwall's natural beauty attracts over 5.5 million tourists each year and the county's coast is a popular destination for both visitors and residents. The large numbers of visitors to Cornwall, combined with valuable and vulnerable wildlife, makes marine conservation important in this county. A robust marine environment is essential for the county's economic, social and environmental future. However, the delicate marine environment is in balance. It is vital that we maintain this balance by encouraging sensible and sustainable use of our marine environment.

As a voluntary designation, the role of the Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA) is not to impose restrictions but to engage communities and encourage sensible use of the natural resources in the area. In doing so, the marine environment will be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Each VMCA aims to:

- Protect and conserve
- Raise awareness and increase understanding of the marine environment
- Encourage education and research



Contact information

If you require more information about any of the events listed or you would like to find out more about your local VMCA please contact: Abby Crosby.

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Email: abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
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Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ

The Your Shore project and the production of this leaflet is supported by:



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Illustration by Sarah McCartney. Design by Sheila McCann-Downes

Thanks to all the volunteers and organisations who have made this programme of events possible.

Your Shore 2012 Events



Look inside for a fun packed diary of events!



Explore and enjoy your local marine environment

Protecting Cornwall's wildlife for the future

The Your Shore project, led by Cornwall Wildlife Trust, is working with the VMCA's in Cornwall to open up access to the rich and diverse marine environment by way of inspiration and education. The project is working with the local community, visitors and schools within each VMCA to inform and engage them in the value of the marine environment and to improve awareness of our impacts upon it.

The Your Shore project has organised a programme of events based around the VMCA's to offer opportunities to explore and learn more about these very special places. From rockpool rambles to seabird talks, there is something for everyone, so please come along and get involved!

How you can get involved

Join in with your local event and learn more about your marine environment, or visit other VMCA's to see and experience the diversity of Cornwall's coastline.

Perhaps you would like to move up the ladder of interest and become a volunteer! Join your local VMCA volunteer group and take part in training and survey work to monitor and assess your local marine environment.

If you enjoy your coastline, perhaps by walking the dog on the beach or sailing your boat off shore, you too can become one of our marine recorders! Tell us whenever you see marine wildlife – dead or alive – as soon as you see it. Report anything unusual washed up on the

beach, in a rockpool, or spotted offshore to www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/marinesighting. Your sightings will help us learn more about these often elusive creatures.

Other useful links

To report a dead marine animal, ring the 24 hour hotline number immediately on 0845 2012626.

If you find a live stranded marine animal please call the British Divers Marine Life Rescue immediately on (01825) 765546.

Check out the work of Cornwall Wildlife Trust on our website, www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk and see what other projects we may have happening near you.

Follow the Seashore Code of Conduct;

- Please leave live animals and seaweeds where you find them; only take photos home.
- Always put overturned rocks back carefully as you found them.
- Take your litter home or put it in a bin.
- Be careful on the shore at all times; check the tides and keep away from the cliffs.
- Walk and climb carefully so you don't knock animals off or crush shells.
- Wear sensible clothing and footwear.



Inspiring involvement in your local marine environment

The coastal and marine environment of Cornwall is recognised as being of both international and local importance for its incredible diversity of marine wildlife, from tiny rare colourful corals to giant basking sharks. This diverse marine natural heritage is showcased across the five Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas (VMCAs) around the county's coast – St Agnes and Polzeath on the north coast and Helford, Fowey and Looe on the south coast.

The suite of VMCAs demonstrates the range of coastal and marine habitats that are of particular significance in Cornwall and on a national and international scale.



St Agnes

The sweep of the VMCA, from St Agnes Head in the west to Pen-a-Grader in the east, embraces the offshore habitat of Bawden Rocks and includes a unique combination of sandy beach and exposed rocky shore, interspersed with a mosaic of rock pools. Seabirds including fulmars, guillemots, razorbills and shags breed on the cliffs and puffins are present on Bawden Rocks. Bottlenose dolphins frequent the waters while Atlantic grey seals breed elusively in inaccessible sea caves.

The St Agnes VMCA is supported by an enthusiastic group of volunteers who have established their own website and Facebook site (search St Agnes VMCA). Please see www.st-agnesvmca.org.uk or email the Your Shore project officer to become part of the local volunteer team.



Polzeath

The VMCA in Polzeath includes the 'inter-tidal areas' (those exposed at low tide) between Pentire Point and Trebetherick Point. It also takes in the splash zone from north of Baby Bay to Pentire Point. The rocks exposed either side of Polzeath beach at low tide combine to form one of the largest inter-tidal areas in North Cornwall. It is an oasis of rock, sheltering a wealth of delicate and important marine wildlife such as the weird and wonderful Celtic sea slug. The area also includes stretches of sand and gravel with their own particular wildlife communities, providing a contrast to the more stable rocks.

The Polzeath VMCA is supported by a strong local group made up of volunteers and related organisations from the area. It also has a unique and special marine centre set in the heart of Polzeath town by the pitch and putt green. Please see www.polzeathmarineconservation.com, search Facebook for 'Polzeath Marine Centre', or email the Your Shore project officer to become part of the local group.



Pink sea fan



Helford

The Helford River, often referred to as the Helford estuary, is one of Cornwall's most beautiful marine inlets and the only one running east-west. The VMCA, designated in 1987, stretches nearly 10km inland with a shoreline of about 47km! It features reefs, rocky shores, low cliffs, areas of boulders, cobbles, sand and silt, as well as muddy creeks. This wide range of habitats enables a wide variety of animal and plant populations to thrive within a relatively sheltered marine environment. Helford also supports a bass nursery ground, an economically important commercial fish species.

The Helford Marine Conservation Group (HMCG) is a voluntary organisation working to safeguard the marine life of the beautiful Helford River and the VMCA. See www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk for more details of their activities and events.



Spiny starfish

Fowey

The Fowey Estuary VMCA supports a wealth of wildlife along its length, from the beautiful Lostwithiel salt marshes to the secluded creeks, home to herons and little egrets that feed below the steep wooded banks. Further up the river, the sand is replaced by a rich mud – prime feeding grounds for wading birds. In the lower reaches the shore changes, from rocky slates at the harbour entrance to the sandy beach of Readymoney Cove. The Fowey Estuary is also a designated Bass Nursery Area, and is used by migratory sea trout and salmon.

The Fowey VMCA is supported by the Friends of the Fowey Estuary who provide a focus for events and activities for the conservation of the estuary. See www.friendsofthefoweyestuary.org.uk for more details.



Looe

The Looe VMCA, established in 1995, embraces almost 5km of coastline from Hore Stone, west of Portnadler Bay, to the Limmicks in Looe Bay. Also included are the East and West Looe rivers to their tidal limits. Seaward, the boundary extends to the 10-metre depth contour and encompasses Looe Island marine nature reserve and the Ranneys. The rugged cliffs of the island provide breeding sites for important seabird colonies, notably great black backed gulls, cormorants and shags. Rocky reefs fringing the coastline are teeming with plant and animal life adapted to survive in this environment. Salt marshes and mudflats in the estuary, exposed with the tide, provide feeding grounds for resident herons and little egrets, and for visiting migratory birds such as curlew, redshank and whimbrel.

In 2011, the Looe VMCA volunteers went independent! Please email the group coordinator on ameliabridges@hotmail.co.uk for more information and how to get involved.



Your Shore Marine Events January to December 2012

Saturday 14th January HMCG Event - Coastal Ketches and Inside Barges

Andy Wyke, from the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, explores the ships, boats and trade from the forgotten past of the Helford River.
Cost: £2. Group members and children free
Time: 7.30pm
Meet: Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary. SW709266 (TR12 6UG)
Contact: Paul (01326) 341030 or Ian (01872) 863171



Saturday 14th January Strandline walk, Looe to Portnadler Bay

Walking to Portnadler Bay via South West coast path, returning to Hannafore along the shoreline looking at wildlife, flotsam and jetsam.
Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome
Time: 12 noon – 3pm
Meet: Near the Coastguard Station, Hannafore. SX256524 (PL13 2DW)
Contact: Booking essential, call Nick Pope 07814 751609 or email nd.pope@btinternet.com
Bring: This walk could be wet, muddy and slippery so come suitably dressed for conditions on the day. Binoculars and a warm drink also a good idea.

Thursday 9th February Talk: Cornish Seabirds

A guide to Cornish seabirds – rare and common – from one of Cornwall's top bird photographers Steve Rogers.
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Meet: Driftwood Spars Hotel, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW721513 (TR5 0RT)
Contact: Booking not essential

Sunday 12th February St Agnes Winter Rockpool Ramble

Explore the wonderful rocky shore within the St Agnes VMCA with local experts and discover the incredible life that lives beneath the seaweed!
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 2pm – 4pm
Meet: At the beach slipway, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW722516
Contact: Booking not essential
Bring: Sensible footwear and clothing.

Sunday 12th February Looe Winter Rockpool Ramble

Wrap up warm and explore the wintry wonderland of Looe's fantastic rockpools.
Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome
Time: 1pm – 3pm
Meet: Meet Hannafore Beach, below the coastguard's hut. SX25565232 (PL13 2DJ)
Contact: Booking not essential. Contact Matt Nott (01503) 262532 for more information.
Bring: Sensible shoes, wellies, and warm clothes. No nets please.

Monday 13th February Fowey Winter Rockpool Ramble

At the edge of the Fowey VMCA sits Ready money beach, whose fringe of rocky

shore provides shelter for starfish, crabs and fish. The Trust joins Friends of Fowey Estuary for a Winter Ramble.
Cost: Free but donations to the Friends of Fowey Estuary Group welcome
Time: 2pm – 4pm
Meet: Ready money beach. SX117512.
Contact: Booking not essential
Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear that can get wet!

Saturday 18th February HMCG Event – Talk: Keeping dolphins out of fishing nets 'The Pinger Trials'

Tom Hardy from Cornwall Wildlife Trust will talk about his work with local fishermen on inshore vessels using acoustic deterrent devices (pingers) to reduce dolphin and porpoise by-catch.
Cost: £2. Group members and children free
Time: 7.30pm
Meet: Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary. SW709266 (TR12 6UG)
Contact: Ruth 07967 251278 or Rhiannon 07710 956734

Thursday 23rd February Talk: The Looe Island Gull Ringing Project

Looe Island supports the 2nd largest colony of greater black backed gulls in Cornwall. Bruce Taggart from Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society will tell us the work he is doing with local volunteers to tag and monitor these magnificent creatures.
Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome
Time: 7pm – 9pm
Meet: East Looe, upstairs in the RNLI Lifeboat Station. SX249535 (PL13 1AT)
Contact: Booking not essential

Thursday 8th March Talk: Cetacean Conservation by Dr Nick Tregenza

Come along to hear a fascinating talk on the conservation of Cornwall's cetaceans from one of the country's leading experts and learn how pioneering technology is being used to help them.
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Meet: Driftwood Spars Hotel, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW721513 (TR5 0RT)
Contact: Booking not essential

Tuesday 13th March Talk: The National Trust around Polzeath: Evening Talk

An illustrated talk about the work of the National Trust around Polzeath. Find out more about your local wildlife, history and landscape. Hear about the wide range of work undertaken by your local National Trust team.
Cost: Free
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Meet: Tubestation, Polzeath. SW935789 (PL27 6TB)
Contact: Booking not essential

Thursday 15th March Talk: Fishes of the South West

The fishing industry relies on the fish of the south west, but how much do we actually know about them? Fish biologist Doug

Herdson will be speaking about these important and interesting marine creatures.
Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Meet: East Looe, upstairs in the RNLI Lifeboat Station. SX249535 (PL13 1AT)
Contact: Booking not essential

Saturday 31st March HMCG Event – Talk: Leatherback Turtles and their Jellyfish prey and AGM

Leatherback turtles have the widest distribution of any reptile, moving through tropical and temperate waters. With ecologist Dr Matthew Witt we will dive into their lifestyles and look at the behavior and favorite foods of these long-lived, but at-risk, creatures.
Cost: £2. Group members and children free
Time: 7.30pm
Meet: Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary. SW709266 (TR12 6UG)
Contact: Paul (01326) 341030 or Charles 07795 845696

Monday 2nd April Talk: Beneath the Waves – Marine Life in the Fowey Estuary

A talk from Cornwall Wildlife Trust about the magical wildlife that exists within this special estuary.
Cost: Free but donations to the Friends of Fowey Estuary Group welcome
Time: 6pm – 7.30pm
Meet: Pinky Murphy's Café, 19 North Street, Fowey. (PL23 1DB)
Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tuesday 3rd April Polzeath Photographic Exploration

Walk around Polzeath, beach and surroundings to photograph marine scenery, natural history and possibly wildlife.
Cost: Free but donations to the Polzeath Marine Centre welcome
Time: 10am to 12:30pm
Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green. SW936788
Contact: Booking essential, 12 places only, under 18 to be accompanied by an adult. Contact Jane Pickles (01208) 869742, mobile 07951 708220, or email janepickles@gmail.com
Bring: Camera, stout footwear, warm clothing, snack.

Thursday 5th April St Agnes Marine Discovery day!

A day to celebrate our coast and sea, with lots of activities going on from sand sculpture competitions to storytelling, rockpool rambles to guided walks.
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Meet: St Agnes Surf Lifesaving Club and on the beach. SW721513
Contact: Booking essential for some activities – more information will be found closer to the date at www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Tuesday 10th April HMCG Event - Seashore Safari

Join Marine Conservation Manager Ruth Williams in a sea search at the edge of the Helford river as the tide falls and find crabs, sea-anemones, seasquirts and other mysterious creatures.
Cost: Free
Time: 2pm – 4pm
Meet: In front of the Ferryboat Inn, Helford Passage. SW764269 (TR11 5LB)
Contact: Ruth 07967 251278 or Charli 07740 090777
Bring: Wear non-slip rock-scrambling shoes that you are prepared to get wet! Bring small nets and plastic buckets if you wish.

Sunday 15th April HMCG Event - Heron and Egret Survey

Following last year's successful event, accompany local bird watcher Martin Rule to survey the wonderful heron and egret populations of the Helford River.
Cost: Free
Time: 9.30am – 12 noon
Meet: Entrance to the road to Calamansack, between Port Navas and Constantine. SW746281
Contact: Booking essential, call Martin (01326) 561164 or 07854 123877. Max 30.
Bring: Binoculars, weatherproof clothing, and robust footwear advised.

Saturday 28th April Coastal cliff foraging / seaweed and eat it!

A foraging walk and talk given by expert Rachel Lambert along the coastal cliffs and sea shore. Then dine on a selection of foraged foods at the beautiful Treetop Café in Bucklawren Woods.
Cost: £10 per person
Time: 10.30am 12.30pm walk, 12.30pm - 1.30pm buffet snacks
Meet: The Monkey Sanctuary's Treetop Café. SX285546 (PL13 1NZ)
Contact: Booking essential. Contact Matt Nott (01503) 262532
Bring: Walking shoes and warm clothes.

Saturday 5th May Photography at St Agnes VMCA

An opportunity to photograph interesting wildlife, geology and seascapes of St Agnes Voluntary Marine Conservation Area with help from the local photo club.
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 10.30am-12.30pm
Meet: Outside the Driftwood Spars, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW721513 (TR5 0RT)
Contact: Booking essential, call Tamara 07717 036032 or Abby on 07917 765581
Bring: Camera, tripod (if you have one), sensible clothing and footwear.

Saturday 12th May Polzeath VMCA guided walk

Join us on an informal walk around the Polzeath VMCA's coast. See our marine conservation area, local points of interest and history and spot marine wildlife.
Cost: Free but donations to the Polzeath Marine Centre welcome
Time: 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green. SW936788.
Contact: Booking not essential
Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear to suit the weather, binoculars.

Saturday 19th May
Crazy about Crabbing!



Looe is famous for its crabbing, but now is the chance to crab with a difference! Marine biologists and local fishermen will teach you about these enigmatic and feisty creatures, including lobsters, and how Cornwall's shellfish fishery is one of the most sustainable and important parts of the Cornish fishing industry. Includes a free cooking demonstration!

Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Meet: East Looe quayside, outside the lifeboat station. SX249535 (PL13 1AT)

Contact: Booking not essential

Bring: Your own crabbing lines with bags – not hooks!

Sunday 20th May

HMCG Event - Botany, Wildlife and Conservation at Budock Vean

Join botanist Keith Spurgin on a walk around the magnificent grounds of the Budock Vean Hotel and find out more about the flora and how the hotel manages its natural environment.

Cost: Free

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Venue: Budock Vean Hotel, Helford

Passage, Mawnan Smith. SW761276 (TR11 5LG)

Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sunday 3rd June

St Agnes Rockpool Ramble

Explore the wonderful rocky shore within the St Agnes VMCA with local experts and discover the incredible life that lives beneath the seaweed!

Cost: Free but donations welcome

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: At the beach slipway, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW722516

Contact: Booking not essential

Bring: Sensible footwear and clothing, plus sun cream if hot weather.

Tuesday 5th June

Fowey Shark Egg Hunt!

Join Fowey VMCA volunteer and shark enthusiast Helen Bolton for a scramble in the strandline looking for shark eggs, or mermaid purses!

Cost: Free but donations to the Friends of Fowey Estuary Group welcome

Time: 10am – 12 noon

Meet: Spit beach, Par. Meet in public car park. SX074523.

Contact: Booking not essential

Wednesday 6th June

HMCG Event - What's beneath your feet?

Have you wondered what sort of creatures produce the squirts of water, holes, tubes and coils of sediment on a beach? Find out by joining Dr Tegwyn Harris as he digs beneath the sands and sandy muds of Bar Beach to Pedn Billy at low tide.

Cost: Free

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Meet: In front of the Ferryboat Inn, Helford Passage. SW764269 (TR11 5LB)

Contact: Pamela (01209) 842316 or Charli 07740 090777

Bring: Trowels / small spades and containers if you wish, plus suitable footwear.

Thursday 7th June

Polzeath VMCA

Marine Discovery Day

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National Trust and Cornwall Council are joining forces to bring you a marine day you will never forget! Come and celebrate our seas in Polzeath and spend the day rockpooling with marine experts, creating beach sculptures or saving dolphins with marine life rescue experts!

Cost: Free

Time: 10am – 4pm

Meet: On Polzeath beach

Contact: For more information call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Friday 8th June

Half term Rockpool Ramble

Join the experts and discover the hidden wonders of Looe's fantastic rockpools.

Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome

Time: 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Meet: Meet Hannafore beach, below the coastguards hut. SX255523 (PL13 2DJ)

Contact: Booking not essential. Contact Matt Nott (01503) 262532

Bring: Sensible shoes, clothing, and sun cream if sunny. No nets please.

Saturday 9th June

Pentire Perambulation

Guide walk with local experts taking in the majestic coastal landscapes of Pentire headland and the Rumps. Looking at the history, wildlife and conservation of this National Trust owned farm. Approx 6.5km, with some arduous coast path walking.

Cost: £3 per head

Time: 10am – 1pm

Meet: Lead Mines car park, Pentireglaze. SW941800 (PL27 6QY)

Contact: Booking essential, call the National Trust on (01208) 863046

Bring: Suitable walking gear, refreshment, binoculars and camera

Saturday 9th June

Seabird and Wildflower Walk

A walk around the nearby cliffs to see breeding seabirds and spring flowers.

Cost: Free but donations welcome

Time: 10am – 1pm

Meet: Outside Driftwood Spars Hotel, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW721513 (TR5 0RT)

Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bring: Sensible clothing and footwear, plus binoculars recommended if you have them.

Saturday 16th June

Spectacular seals with Looe Glass Bottom Boats

Join seal experts for a day for a spectacular seal day! Take an afternoon boat trip around Looe Island with Cornwall Seal Group and learn about the secret life of Looe's seals.

Cost: £7 per head

Time: Boats start from 1pm. Boat trips 1 hour

Meet: East Looe, confirmed on booking
Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bring: Warm and waterproof clothing and binoculars if you have them.

Sunday 1st July

HMCG Event - Helford Conservation Cruise

Enjoy the Helford wildlife scene on a boat trip upriver from the mouth of the estuary with local experts, displays, children's activities and live tanks.

Cost: Adults £8 and under-18s £4

Time: 2.30pm – 5pm

Meet: The Ferryboat Inn jetty, Helford Passage on the NORTH shore. SW764269 (TR11 5LB)

Contact: Booking essential. Call Paul (01326) 341030 or David (01326) 340686

Please make cheques payable to "Helford Marine Conservation Group" and send, with SAE for tickets, to Paul Garrard, 4 Valley View, Constantine, Falmouth TR11 5AP, marking envelope 'Cruise'.

Bring: Weatherproof clothing. Binoculars could be useful.

Friday 13th July

The Coast at Twilight – Evening BBQ and wildlife exploration

An evening to discover the life that appears as the sun sets over the sea, with Cornwall Moth Group experts and members of Cornwall Bat Group. BBQ to start at 7.30pm.

Cost: Free but donations welcome

Time: 7.30pm – 10.30pm

Meet: St Agnes Headland – details confirmed on booking

Contact: Booking essential, contact Jane King on (01872) 553568 or email janeg.king@tiscali.co.uk

Bring: BBQs provided but bring your own BBQ food and drink. Wear sensible footwear and clothing.

Saturday 14th July

Snorkel Safari

Led by Trust Marine Conservation Officers, this 1 day course will teach you how to get the best out of snorkelling in UK waters plus discover the wonderful wildlife that lives under the oceans waves. Maximum no. of participants on course 12.

Cost: £30 per person

Time: 9am – 4.30pm

Meet: Trust office, Allet, Truro TR4 9DJ

Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bring: All snorkel equipment including wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins are provided - by kind donation from Cornish Diving College. Minimum age of participant is 8 years of age. All participants under the age of 18 to be accompanied by an adult. Cost of course includes pack with marine ID guides, discount vouchers and other goodies!

Saturday 21st July

Looe Mollusc Mania

Introducing sea snails and their many relatives, join Looe VMCA Volunteer and mollusc enthusiast Heather Buttivant to learn more and explore the shore.

Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Meet: East Looe, upstairs in the RNLI Lifeboat Station. SX249535 (PL13 1AT)

Contact: Booking essential, contact Heather on (01503) 264569 or email h.buttivant@gmail.com

Bring: Sensible shoes, clothing, and sun cream if sunny. No nets please.

Wednesday 25th July

Make a Rockpool!

This popular arts and crafts event is back for another year. Learn about life within in a rockpool as you create one of your very own to take home.

Cost: Free although donations to the Polzeath VMCA welcome

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green. SW936788.

Contact: Booking not essential however rockpool templates restricted so first come first served basis.

Friday 27th July

Shark, Skate and Ray Day

Egg case hunt on beach and educational fun with the Shark Trust including arts and crafts.

Cost: Free

Time: 1pm – 4pm

Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green.

SW936788.

Contact: Booking not essential. Robin Hartley 07584 064119, Claire Garland 07776 048483.

Bring: Appropriate footwear, bucket, wet weather gear, sun cream and hat.

Wednesday 1st August

Polzeath Plankton Parade!

Investigate and explore the most crucial part of the marine environment that is not normally considered or looked at; the crazy and bizarre world of the microscopic plants and animals found in the sea...plankton. With arts and crafts as well as actually plankton catching!

Cost: Free

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green.

SW936788

Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Thursday 2nd August at 11.15am

Monday 20th August at 12.45pm

Tuesday 21st August at 1.15pm

Thursday 30th August at 10.15am

Monday 3rd September at 12.30pm

Polzeath Summer Rockpool Rambles
Discover the wildlife on the rocky shore of the Polzeath VMCA with marine wildlife experts.

Cost: Free but donations to the Polzeath VMCA welcome

Time: Rambles to last approx. 2 hours

Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green. SW936788.

Contact: Booking essential, contact Cornwall Council on (01840) 779084.

Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear that can get wet! Small buckets also useful.

Thursday 2nd August

St Agnes Summer Rockpool Ramble

Explore the wonderful rocky shore within the St Agnes VMCA with local experts and discover the incredible life that lives beneath the seaweed!

Cost: Free but donations welcome

Time: 12 noon – 2pm

Meet: At the beach slipway, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes, SW722516.

Contact: Booking not essential

Bring: Sensible footwear and clothing, plus sun cream if hot weather.

Friday 3rd August

Looe Mad about Mud and all things slimy!

Marine biologist and local resident Nick Pope will be joining forces with the Friends of Kilminorth Woods and Cornwall Wildlife Trust to investigate the life in the West Looe River at low tide.

Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Meet: West Looe, location confirmed upon booking

Contact: Booking essential, contact Christine on (01503) 265590 or email kilminorth@btinternet.com

Sunday 5th August

Seashore Discoveries on Par Beach

Your Shore joins forces with the Friends of Par Beach for a fun family events with scavenger hunting and beach sculpture competitions.

Cost: Free

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Meet: Meet at the main car park in Par Beach. SX087533 (PL24 2AS)

Contact: Booking not essential

Bring: Sensible footwear and clothing, plus sun cream in hot weather.

Tuesday 7th August Looe Coastal Crafts Event

Come and join in with the marine arts and crafts in the coastal town of Looe.

Cost: £1 per child, parents free

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: East Looe, upstairs in the RNLI Lifeboat Station. SX249535 (PL13 1AT)

Contact: Booking not essential

Wednesday 8th August

Underwater Worlds Arts and Crafts

Make your own magical underwater scene with Polzeath VMCA volunteers.

Cost: Free although donations to the Polzeath VMCA welcome

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green.

SW936788.

Contact: Booking not essential.

Thursday 9th August

Bat Night and BBQ

Join the National Trust's local Rangers for a BBQ and a talk about bats. The evening will end with a short walk to the cliffs to see and hear greater horseshoe bats emerge from old mine workings.

Cost: Adults £4, children under 12 free

Time: 7.30pm until dusk

Meet: Parking at the Lead Mines car park then walk 200 metres back to the BBQ at Pentireglaze. SW943798 (PL27 6QY)

Contact: Booking essential, call the National Trust on (01208) 863046

Bring: BBQs, for cooking, will be provided. Picnic / food for the BBQ,

warm clothes. A torch is useful.

Friday 10th August

Whale, Dolphin and Basking Shark Watch

Join marine life experts to look for and learn about whales, dolphins, seals, sharks and ocean sunfish and enjoy one of the most beautiful coastal views in Cornwall!

Cost: Free

Time: 10am - 2pm

Meet: St Agnes Head, SW699514. Turn off Beacon Drive (coast road) towards the headland and the white NCI coast watch station hut. Please park in the main car park to west of the NCI car park and meet at the headland on the coast path directly down the hill below the coast watch hut.

Contact: Booking not essential

Bring: Binoculars (but there will a few available to borrow), warm clothes, water proofs, sun block, hat, food and drink.

Saturday 11th August

Snorkel Safari

Led by CWT Marine Conservation Officers, this 1 day course will teach you how to get the best out of snorkelling in UK waters plus discover the wonderful wildlife that lives under the oceans waves. Maximum no. of participants on course 12.

Cost: £30 per person

Time: 9am – 4.30pm

Meet: Trust office, Allet, Truro TR4 9DJ

Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bring: All snorkel equipment including wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins are provided - by kind donation from Cornish Diving College. Minimum age of participant is 8 years of age. All participants under the age of 18 to be accompanied by an adult. Cost of course includes pack with marine ID guides, discount vouchers and other goodies!

Wednesday 15th August

Beach Detectives and Strandline mobiles

Become a beach detective and take part in a scavenger hunt on the strandline. Learn about this fascinating part of the beach and then bring your beach treasures back to the centre to and create a mobile to take home to remind you of your adventure.

Cost: Free although donations to the Polzeath VMCA welcome

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: At the Marine Centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green.

SW936788.

Contact: Booking not essential

Friday 17th August

Looe Summer Holiday Rockpool Ramble

Join the experts and discover the hidden wonders of Looe's fantastic rockpools.

Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome

Time: 11.30am-1.30pm

Meet: Meet Hannafore beach, below the coastguards hut. SX25565232 (PL13 2DJ)

Contact: Booking not essential, contact Matt Nott (01503) 262532 for more information.

Bring: Sensible shoes, clothing, and sun cream if sunny. No nets please.

Tuesday 21st August

HMCG Event - Rockpool Ramble

Investigate the fascinating rock pools at Prisk Cove and discover the hidden world of crabs, fish, sea-anemones and strange shellfish with marine authority Ruth Williams.

Cost: Free

Time: 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Meet: Meet at Mawnan Church TR11 5HY at the end of Old Church Road or join us on shore. Mawnan Church SW788272, Prisk Cove. SW 795 277

Contact: Ruth 07967 251278 or Charles 07795 845696

Bring: Wear non-slip rock-scrambling shoes that you are prepared to get wet! Bring small nets and plastic buckets if you wish.

Tuesday 21st August

Marine Day at the Fowey Regatta Week!

The Your Shore Project is bringing the Fowey VMCA to the masses! With activities all day from arts and crafts, games, a plankton lab and an afternoon rockpool ramble starting at 2pm.

Cost: Free but donations to the Friends of Fowey Estuary Group welcome

Time: 10am – 4pm

Meet: Fowey Town Quay. Ramble to start from 2pm on Ready money Beach

Contact: Booking not essential

Wednesday 22nd August

Litter Monsters

Learn about the negative impact of litter and make sculptural monsters to take away as a memento.

Cost: Free although donations to the Polzeath VMCA welcome

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: At the Marine Centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green.

SW936788.

Contact: Booking not essential

Wednesday 22nd August

St Agnes End of Summer Rockpool Ramble

Explore the wonderful rocky shore within the St Agnes VMCA with local experts and discover the incredible life that lives beneath the seaweed!

Cost: Free but donations welcome

Time: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Meet: At the beach slipway, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW722516.

Contact: Booking not essential

Bring: Sensible footwear and clothing, plus sun cream if hot weather.

Thursday 23rd August

Snorkel Safari

Led by CWT Marine Conservation Officers, this 1 day course will teach you how to get the best out of snorkelling in UK waters plus discover the wonderful wildlife that lives under the oceans waves. Maximum no. of participants on course 12.

Cost: £30 per person

Time: 9am – 4.30pm

Meet: Trust office, Allet, Truro TR4 9DJ

Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bring: All snorkel equipment including wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins are provided - by kind donation from Cornish Diving College. Minimum age of participant is 8 years of age. All participants under the age of 18 to be accompanied by an adult. Cost of course includes pack with marine ID guides, discount vouchers and other goodies!

Friday 24th August

Looe Marine Critters Arts and Crafts

Come and join in with the marine arts and crafts in the coastal town of Looe.

Cost: Free

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: East Looe, upstairs in the RNLI Lifeboat Station. SX249535 (PL13 1AT)

Contact: Booking not essential

Wednesday 29th August

End of Summer Marine Centre Creations!

A chance to use up all the glitter, take all the pipe cleaners and grab the leftover tissue paper for a session of crafty mess creating sculptures inspired by the information in the Polzeath Marine Centre.

Cost: Free although donations to the Polzeath VMCA welcome

Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green. SW936788.

Contact: Booking not essential.

Friday 31st August

Looe Summer Holiday Rockpool Ramble 2

Make the most of the last few days of the holiday by discovering the hidden wonders of Looe's fantastic rockpools.

Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome

Time: 11.30am-1.30pm

Meet: Meet Hannafore beach, below the coastguard's hut. SX255523 (PL13 2DJ)

Contact: Booking not essential. Contact Matt Nott (01503) 262532 for more information.

Bring: Sensible shoes, clothing, and sun cream if sunny. No nets please.

Friday 7th September

Evening Seal Spectacular at the Gweek Seal Sanctuary

Join Cornwall Seal Group experts at the Gweek Seal Sanctuary to discover the lives of one of Cornwall's most enigmatic creatures - seals. Discover what Cornwall's marine teams do to help the conservation of seals on our coastal doorstep!

Cost: £4/adult, £2.50/child. Payment on entry

Time: 5.30pm entrance. Talks to start at 6.30pm. Refreshments available to buy from the cafe

Meet: Gweek Seal Sanctuary. SW709266 (TR12 6UG)

Contact: Booking essential, contact Abby Crosby, 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk Max 50.

Saturday 8th September

Snorkel Safari

Led by Trust Marine Conservation Officers, this 1 day course will teach you how to get the best out of snorkelling in UK waters plus discover the wonderful wildlife that lives under the oceans waves. Maximum no. of participants on course 12.

Cost: £30 per person

Time: 9am – 4.30pm

Meet: Trust office, Allet, Truro TR4 9DJ

Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@

Cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bring: All snorkel equipment including wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins are provided - by kind donation from Cornish Diving College. Minimum age of participant is 8 years of age. All participants under the age of 18 to be accompanied by an adult. Cost of course includes pack with marine ID guides, discount vouchers and other goodies!

Saturday 15th September Looe Searching for Seaweeds

Join Looe VMCA volunteer and seaweed enthusiast for a session all about seaweeds. Learn how to identify different types and the art of seaweed pressing.
Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome
Time: 10am – 12pm noon
Meet: Meet Hannafore beach, below the coastguards hut. SX255523 (PL13 2DJ)
Contact: Booking not essential. Contact Sue Pybus on (01503) 273284 for more information.
Bring: Sensible shoes, clothing, and sun cream if sunny.

Saturday 15th September St Agnes MCS Beachwatch Big Weekend

We are joining in with the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch Big Weekend and conducting a beach clean at Porthtowan beach including recording the types and amount of marine litter that we find. Join volunteers from St Agnes VMCA to help clean up!
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 11am – 1pm
Meet: Outside the Blue Bar, Porthtowan. SX693480 (TR4 8AD)
Contact: Booking not essential
Bring: Sturdy footwear, sun cream (if needed), snacks, warm and waterproof clothing.

Saturday 22nd September Polzeath Mega Beach Clean

Help National Trust, Beachcare, and Polzeath VMCA volunteers clean the stunning beaches at Polzeath. Equipment provided. Part of Clean Cornwall Week.
Cost: Free
Time: 1pm – 3pm
Meet: At the marine centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green. SW936788.
Contact: Booking not essential
Bring: Sensible footwear and clothing and refreshment.

Thursday 11th October Talk: Trials and Tribulations of Cornwall's Grey Seal Pups

Whilst grey seals are superbly adapted to life in the sea, their first few months of life are very tough as they learn to fend for themselves. This talk with seal expert Sue Sayer will explain the reasons why.
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Meet: Driftwood Spars Hotel, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW721513 (TR5 0RT)
Contact: Booking not essential

Sunday 21st October HMCG Event - Fungus Foray

Join Pauline Penna to discover what the damp autumn weather has brought out

this year.

Cost: Free

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Meet: Goongillings Farm, 1km south of Constantine, near Trengilly Wartha Inn. SW735283 (TR11 5RP)

Contact: Booking essential, call Martin on 07854 123877. Max 25

Bring: Weatherproof clothing and robust footwear advised.

Monday 29th October Looe Autumn Rockpool Ramble and Shark Trust Eggcase Hunt.

Discover the hidden wonders of Looe's fantastic rockpools and spot mermaids purses with Shark Trust experts.
Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome
Time: 10am - 12noon
Meet: Meet Hannafore beach, below the coastguard's hut. SX255523 (PL13 2DJ)
Contact: Booking not essential. Contact Matt Nott (01503) 262532 for more information.
Bring: Sensible shoes, wellies, warm clothes. No nets please.

Tuesday 30th October Fowey Autumn Rockpool Ramble

Join marine experts on this wonderful rocky shore to discover the micro monsters and slimy seaweeds of the shallows.
Cost: Free but donations to the Friends of Fowey Estuary Group welcome
Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm
Meet: Ready money beach. SX117512.
Contact: Booking not essential
Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear that can get wet!

Tuesday 30th October Talk: Reading the Rocks

An introduction to the geology of Polzeath and Pentire headland, learning about what the rock formations can tell us about the history of this spectacular coastline.
Cost: Free but donations to the Polzeath Marine Centre welcome
Time: 5.30pm – 7pm
Meet: Tubestation, Polzeath. SW935789 (PL27 6TB)
Contact: Booking not essential

Wednesday 31st October St Agnes Autumn Rockpool Ramble

Explore the wonderful rocky shore within the St Agnes VMCA with local experts and discover the incredible life that lives beneath the seaweed!
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 11am – 1pm
Meet: At the beach Slipway, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW722516
Contact: Booking not essential
Bring: Sensible Footwear and clothing, plus sun cream if hot weather.

Wednesday 31st October Creatures of the Deep!

To celebrate Halloween, the marine centre volunteers are inviting you into the dark world of the deep sea to learn all about the weird and scary creatures that live there and create your own fishy monster – costumes optional!
Cost: Free although donations to the Polzeath VMCA welcome
Time: 11am – 1pm

Meet: At the Marine Centre, Polzeath, opposite the pitch and putt green. SW936788.

Contact: Booking essential, call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Thursday 8th November Talk: Smuggling - Fact or Fiction?

Local Historian Mark Camp looks at the famous smuggling history of Cornwall and the stories associated with it.
Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome
Time: 7pm – 9pm
Meet: East Looe, upstairs in the RNLI Lifeboat Station. SX249535 (PL13 1AT)
Contact: Booking not essential

Tuesday 13th November Talk: The Strange Fish of the North Coast

Fish biologist Doug Herdson will be speaking about the common, strange, unusual, weird and wonderful fish that exists off the north coast of Cornwall.
Cost: Free but donations to the Polzeath Marine Centre welcome
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Meet: Tubestation, Polzeath. SW935789 (PL27 6TB)
Contact: Booking not essential

Thursday 15th November Talk: Mapping the (not so) Deep

This talk brings together the research Cornwall College within the St Agnes VMCA, which covers such diverse topics as the plankton species present, nutrient and copper levels from the stream entering Trevaunance Cove, and seabed habitat mapping.
Cost: Free but donations welcome
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Meet: Driftwood Spars Hotel, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW721513 (TR5 0RT)
Contact: Booking not essential

Saturday 24th November HMCG Event – Talk: Recording Nature – the Work of the Environmental Records Centre

Sue Scott, part of the ERCCIS team, will talk about her experience over the years of recording and working on the Wildlife Information Service, from exciting new records of dormice to more unlikely sightings of horseshoe crabs, penguins and big cats!
Cost: £2. Group members and children free
Time: 7.30pm
Meet: Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary. SW709266 (TR12 6UG)
Contact: Call Abby on 07917 765581 or email abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Wednesday 5th December Sea Life Quiz Night!

Come and test your knowledge about all things to do with the sea! From sea birds to basking sharks, fishing to geology, see how much you know about your coastline.
Cost: £1 entry per person, all money towards the St Agnes VMCA
Time: 7pm – 9pm
Meet: Driftwood Spars Hotel, Trevaunance Cove, St Agnes. SW721513

(TR5 0RT)
Contact: Booking not essential, just sign up your team on the night.

Saturday 8th December HMCG Event - Cornish Estuarine Sediments: Human Impact versus Natural Processes


Duncan Pirrie will explore the issues of contaminated sediments within Cornish estuaries due to its past mining history, and suggest that the best strategy is to minimise remobilisation.
Cost: £2. Group members and children free
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm
Meet: Gweek Village Hall, beside the National Seal Sanctuary. SW709266 (TR12 6UG)
Contact: Paul (01326) 341030 or David (01326) 340686

Thursday 13th December Underwater Meadows in Looe Bay

Learn about the only true plant that lives under the sea - the beautiful and important seagrass – home to such creatures as cuttlefish, seahorses, and pipefish.
Cost: Free but donations to the Looe VMCA Group welcome
Time: 7pm – 9pm
Meet: East Looe, upstairs in the RNLI Lifeboat Station. SX249535 (PL13 1AT)
Contact: Booking not essential

Friday 14th December Sea Life Quiz Night!

Come and test your knowledge about all things to do with the sea! From sea birds to basking sharks, fishing to geology, see how much you know about your coastline.
Cost: £1 entry per person, all money towards the Polzeath Marine Centre
Time: 5.30pm – 8pm
Meet: Tubestation, Polzeath. SW935789 (PL27 6TB)
Contact: Booking not essential, just sign up your team on the night.

All events welcome people of all ages and abilities, however those marked with  are particularly suitable for families with children.

All participants below the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Help protect Cornwall's wildlife

Cornwall Wildlife Trust is the leading local charity working to protect and enhance Cornwall's wildlife and wild places. We are passionate about all aspects of nature conservation and work only in Cornwall. We want to help everyone enjoy nature, so we hope the Your Shore leaflet has inspired you to experience your local marine environment up close!

We depend on support from people who care about Cornwall's wildlife and you can support us by becoming a member. If you too believe that Cornwall's wildlife should be protected, please join us. You will be part of something wonderful.

It's so easy to join:

- Go online to www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/join
- Phone us on (01872) 273939

Thank you.

Benefits of being a member

- Knowledge that you are helping to safeguard Cornwall's special environment and wildlife.
- Receive our Wild Cornwall magazine packed with wildlife news, articles and local wildlife events three times a year.
- Receive information about our 55 nature reserves.
- Have the opportunity to join your local wildlife group and meet like-minded people.



We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2012 and we invite you to help us make this the best year yet.

Join us at our exciting events or take part in our £50 for 50 years challenge. Visit www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/anniversary for more details.



Protect wildlife forever



Leave a legacy for the future

So much of the Trust's conservation work is made possible through legacies left to us by our supporters, no matter how big or small they really do make a difference. When you write or update your Will, once you have made sure that the people you care about are provided for, please consider including a legacy gift to Cornwall Wildlife Trust to ensure future generations can enjoy the natural beauty of Cornwall and its wildlife.

Legacies have already helped us to:

- Provide protection for endangered species
- Buy and manage nature reserves
- Educate and inspire children
- Encourage volunteers to protect their local area
- Campaign on behalf of wildlife.

What's more, legacies to a registered charity are tax-free, which helps to reduce inheritance tax liability. If you would like to know more about leaving a legacy to the Trust please contact us for your free Make a Will for Wildlife booklet:

- (01872) 273939
- Visit our website: cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/legacy

Registered charity name: Cornwall Trust for Nature Conservation
Registered charity number: 214929