

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Welcomes Sarah Mellor to the Fold

Two pairs of size twelve ecology shoes have been left under desks at the National Park Authority Offices. In August two biodiversity stalwarts from the Authority, Ecologist Jane Hodges and Woodland Officer Celia Thomas, flew the nest to pastures green (retired!) after many years of sterling work for the Authority. They will be missed.

Recently appointed National Park Authority Biodiversity Officer Sarah Mellor didn't say what size her ecology shoes are on her application form, but there is every confidence Sarah will be a great asset to the biodiversity community in West Wales.

Sarah has worked for a variety of organisations including the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers leading volunteers on practical conservation and training tasks and at Dartmoor National Park Authority implementing a range of practical biodiversity and people engagement projects.

Sarah Mellor



PEMBROKESHIRE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



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Volume 11 Issue 3
Autumn/Winter 2014

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More recently with her work at the National Trust Sarah has been involved in looking at threats to designated sites and managing actions in response, highlighting success stories and liaising with those with an interest in National Trust properties to find solutions to enable delivery of favourable conservation management.

Sarah has already built up excellent knowledge of coastal habitat management during her time with the National Trust through site survey, monitoring and provision of management advice on key coastal properties including Gower, Llyn Peninsula, the Ceredigion coast and within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park itself.

You can contact Sarah at:

SarahMe@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk. She begins her post with us as National Park Biodiversity Officer on the 22nd of September and I am sure you will all extend her a warm welcome.

Martina Dunne
PCNPA



National Moth Night in Pengelli Forest

The UK's National Moth Night took place between the 3rd and 5th of July this year. An event was organised in Pengelli Forest nature reserve with a keen group of moth enthusiasts from the North Pembrokeshire Moth Group that includes Tony Lewis, the County's moth recorder. The event started at 8.30pm and finished at 1.30am with weather conditions pretty much perfect for a good showing of moths. A total of four moth traps were used; two Robinson MV 125W traps, one Skinner MV 125W trap and one Actinic 15W trap. One might say that is overkill, yet spaced a good distance away from each other, they soon started to show results.

Moth Trapping



We weren't disappointed with numbers as hundreds of moths flocked to the light traps throughout the evening. By the end of the event 90 different species were recorded of which 10 were new to the reserve. The 'scotch smudge' (*Rhigognostis incarnatella*) was of particular interest as to date the only Welsh records were from Newport and Felindre Farchog - areas not too far from the reserve. Pengelli Forest is now an additional site for this moth yet all records for this species still only exist in Pembrokeshire. Other species noted included the spectacular elephant hawk-moth (*Deilephila elpenor*) and the Beautiful Golden Y (*Autographa pulchrina*). There were plenty of 'micro moths' and those of you who know something about mothing will understand how difficult it can be to identify these smaller species. I am just glad that the experts did although there were some minor disagreements at times!

Elephant Hawk-Moth



Moth trapping occurs at other nature reserves throughout the summer and good numbers of species are being added to reserve record databases. Another group of species that can be recorded at these events are of course bats, which use moths as their primary food source. Moth trapping can therefore be a good way to lure these mammals closer to a bat detector and hence identify species within the area.

Keep your eye out for advertised events in the near future.

Nathan Walton

Wildlife Trust Officer for Pembrokeshire

Ten Years of Sea Trust in Pembrokeshire

Since 2004, Sea Trust (the Fishguard based marine conservation group) have been recording and monitoring the marine wildlife around the Pembrokeshire Coast.

Specialising in recording and monitoring cetaceans (Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises) but also focusing on conservation and protection of all our fantastic marine wildlife, "Local people looking after their marine wildlife" is our slogan and aim.

This stems back to the days of the Sea Empress oil spill which highlighted knowledge gaps about our marine environment and biodiversity. It became obvious that without people getting out to sea or recording sightings from the shore those knowledge gaps would continue to widen. So as a Wildlife Trust member and supporter I offered to form a marine section based here in Pembrokeshire.

Sea Trust as we became known went from strength to strength, with our porpoise watch events at Strumble Head, small boat surveys and ferry surveys aboard the "Stena Europe". Our volunteers give slide shows all around the County and hundreds of local people have volunteered with us over the past ten years and continue to do so. Thanks to our

longstanding partnership with Stena Line our ferry survey routes now include Fishguard to Rosslare, Holyhead to Dublin and new for this year Rosslare to Cherbourg in France.

A couple of years ago, the Council was considering the future of the Ocean Lab in Fishguard Harbour. We negotiated with them and the development company to keep it open and use it as a base to develop a marine exhibition alongside the café and soft play area that form a hub for our community. We were successful in doing so, saving existing jobs and even creating two new jobs. In doing so we re-formed into a "Not for profit" Community Interest Company.



Sea Trust Volunteers in action

The Ocean Lab is now the centre of our operations, open seven days a week summer and winter. A steady stream of visitors from all over the world (also many locals) visit our exhibition of local marine wildlife with volunteers conducting tours giving a unique view of our work and Pembrokeshire's marine wildlife. On Sundays, Silent World 2U visit with their reptiles, snakes and creepy crawlies adding a different dimension to what we offer.

Although most of our effort is locally focused, we are founder members of the European Cetacean Monitoring Coalition representing Wales and also represent Wales in the World Cetacean Alliance. This year we will be publishing a report based on ten years of month by month survey work aboard the Stena Europe. It will be the longest running and most



Aboard the Stena Europe



comprehensive survey of cetaceans ever undertaken in Welsh waters and for the first time we have a seasonal view of their comings and goings!

All our records are converted to ArcView GIS and made available to all through the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre. To see what we are up to or find out more about us see our website, Facebook page or our Whales in Wales blog!

Cliff Benson

Sea Trust

www.seatrust.org.uk

Tel: 01348874737

Email: seatrustwales@gmail.com



West Williamston Egg Count—Call for Volunteers

The annual egg count to monitor the population of the rare Brown Hairstreak butterfly at West Williamston will take place on Sunday 7th December 2014. The eggs are tiny and laid sparsely on young Blackthorn twigs, so searching for them can be quite difficult until you 'get your eye in'. We meet at 10.00am in the little car park just beyond the hamlet.

Bring packed lunch if you want to stay for an

afternoon 'rest of the reserve' session. Contact me with any queries.

Nikki Anderson

01646 686469

Manx Shearwater Strandings

Late August and early September is the time of year when Manx Shearwater sometimes become disorientated and end up landing inland on surfaces they mistake for water (such as roads). Once down, they can struggle to take off again without assistance. The problem is particularly acute if fledging of the young happens to coincide with strong south-westerly winds and poor visibility.

If you should happen to find one stranded, put it in a cardboard box with air holes and contact the following people to arrange collection:

Jean Haines 01646 651236

Nigel Rossiter 07974 387715

Alternatively, take it to your nearest vet's surgery.

Ant Rogers

Biodiversity Implementation Officer



Ant Rogers — Biodiversity Implementation Officer
anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk 01437764551

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Pembrokeshire Wildlife Sightings Event 2014 – Photographic competition is NOW OPEN

On the 12th November 2014 the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF) will host the immensely popular 'Pembrokeshire Wildlife Sightings Event' at the Merlin Theatre, Haverfordwest. The event inspires local naturalists and photographers to share stories and images celebrating the diverse and special wildlife of Pembrokeshire both on land and under water.

The event supports the work of the Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter and Marine Code groups whose aim is to raise awareness of what the public can do to ensure that its wildlife is cherished and protected for future generations. The groups have developed codes of conduct and best practice for adventurous activities and organise regular environmental training events to raise awareness of the flora, fauna, and natural heritage of Pembrokeshire.

Six local speakers will share stories and images of their wildlife sightings in Pembrokeshire. This year, **Francis Bunker** will give an insight into the secret life of seaweeds. Local boat operator and marine code ambassador, **Tony Barber** will inform us of their recent cetacean sightings. **Tim Healing** will share his wealth of knowledge about the Skomer Vole. **Trevor Theobald** and **Ant Rogers** will present about Pollinators and Wildflowers of Pembrokeshire. To round off the evening, **Lou Luddington** will speak about our amazing underwater anemones.

An important part of the event is the wildlife photography competition, with winning photographs chosen by a panel of local judges. New to 2014 is the children's section for budding photographers under 16. First, Second and Third prizes are up for grabs and the competition is open for all to enter, simply



Last Year's Winning Entry
Photo: Mat Mackenzie

send in a maximum of three photos of Pembrokeshire Wildlife you have seen since 1st Jan 2014 (no more than 1Mb per photo) to Jodie.mcgregor@pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk Full terms and conditions are available on PCF website. Deadline for submission is midday **3th November 2014**. Winners will be announced on the night of the event.

For more information about the event, terms and conditions for the photography competition and dates of when booking is open please visit: www.pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk

We are very excited to be planning this event again, which is always a sell-out. It's a fun night with such a wealth of knowledgeable and passionate people all in one room!

Jodie McGregor
Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum



Biodiversity Events September—October



Date	Title	Information	Contact
10 & 11 Sept 2014	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference	Annual Biodiversity Conference. This year hosted in Cardiff. Details here: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/97/en-GB/Wales-Biodiversity-Partnership-Conference	Bookings through the website
20 Sept 2014	Introduction to Beekeeping Part 1: Cilgerran	A one day course for those who have a keen interest in bee keeping and learning more about bees in general at The Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran. Cost £40.	01239 621600
21 Sept 2014	Introduction to Beekeeping Part 2: Cilgerran	A one day course for those who have a keen interest in bee keeping and learning more about bees in general at The Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran. Cost £40.	01239 621600
19 Oct 2014	Autumn Migrant Bird Identification: Cilgerran	Bob and Annie Haycock deliver an introduction to autumn birds associated with Teifi Marshes reserve. The course will cover general ecology; the annual cycle of these species; how to observe them and how to record them. It will also include watching and caring for garden birds and how you can contribute records to surveys such as the Garden Bird-watch scheme and BirdTrack. Cost £25.	01239 621600
28 Oct 2014 15:30 – 17:00	Brilliant Bats: Carew	Family friendly walk to look for bats and listen to their calls on special detectors and to learn about their unusual lifestyles. All kit provided. Bat watch includes a short walk. Attendees advised to dress appropriately and to bring a torch. BOOKING ESSENTIAL	01834 845040
29 Oct 2014 13:00 – 15:30	Wild Woodland Adventures: Colby Woodland Garden	Watch out for the woodland wildlife preparing for winter in these family activity events. £3 per person. Discover a beautiful woodland garden within a hidden valley.	01834 811885
29 Oct 2014 15:30 – 17:00	Twilight at Colby: Colby Woodland Garden	Discover woodland wildlife as darkness falls on this one mile family friendly stroll. £3.50 adult £2.50 children (includes hot drink and biscuits).	01834 811885



Biodiversity Events October—December



Date	Title	Information	Contact
30 Oct 2014 13:00 – 15:30	Wild Woodland Adventures: Colby Woodland Garden	Watch out for the woodland wildlife preparing for winter in these family activity events. £3 per person. Discover a beautiful woodland garden within a hidden valley.	01834 811885
30 Oct 2014 15:30 – 17:00	Twilight at Colby Colby Woodland Garden	Discover woodland wildlife as darkness falls on this one mile family friendly stroll. £3.50 adult £2.50 children (includes hot drink and biscuits).	01834 811885
07 Dec 2014	West Williamston Egg Count	Meet at the Nature Reserve at West Williamston at 10:00 to help with the annual survey for the eggs of the rare Brown Hairstreak Butterfly.	Nikki Anderson 01646 686469



Visit us on Facebook at:

[https://www.facebook.com/
PembrokeshireBiodiversity](https://www.facebook.com/PembrokeshireBiodiversity)



PBP Contact Details

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anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Pembrokeshire Biodiversity website:

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk (search - biodiversity)

Wales Biodiversity website:

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

Biodiversity Newsletters

Mae'r cylch-lythyr hwn ar gael yng Nghymraeg, cysylltwch â Ant am gopi cymraeg.

PBP would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter. If you would like to write an article for the next newsletter please contact Ant.

PBP Members

County Landowners Association



Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust



Farmers Union of Wales



Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group



Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development



Keep Wales Tidy



Prince's Trust Cymru



Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



National Farmers Union – Wales



The National Trust



Natural Resources Wales



The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales



Pembroke 21C Community Association Limited



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Pembrokeshire County Council



West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre

