

Voluntary Marine Conservation Area

# Helford VMCA

Events 2012

[www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk](http://www.helfordmarineconservation.co.uk)



## INTRODUCTION

The Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Area was designated in 1987 to help protect the rich and varied marine life of this beautiful estuary. The aims are to encourage people to become more involved with the marine environment and to work together to conserve it. This programme of events has been produced to help people to learn, understand and enjoy this very special place.

This leaflet contains details of the events, walks and activities that will be taking place around the Helford River during 2012. The programme offers a wide range of activities, from seashore exploration and special marine talks to bird-watching walks and a conservation cruise. All will help to show the watery wonders and mysterious marine world of the Helford River. There is something for all ages, abilities and interests and everyone is welcome.

## Booking

Booking is not essential unless stated. Further information can be obtained from the contacts given.

## Cost

Shore events are free, others as stated.

## What to wear

Please dress for the weather where our events are based outdoors. Bring warm clothes and waterproofs, even in the summer! Wear stout shoes or boots for walks, and shoes with a grip that you are prepared to get wet for seashore safaris and shore activities. Field guides and binoculars are often useful but not essential. Any specific equipment will be stated in the event details.

## Children

We welcome and encourage children at all events, but they must be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them.

## Dogs

Dogs are welcome on guided walks and suitable events but must be kept on a lead and under control at all times to prevent disturbance to wildlife.

## Cars

Car parking at some sites is limited so please share cars, cycle or use public transport wherever possible. Remember never to leave valuables in parked cars.

## Access

Access and terrain can occasionally be awkward for outdoor events. Please phone the relevant event contact for advice and further information.

Persons who participate in events do so at their own risk.

## January



## February



## March



### Saturday 14th January

#### Coastal Ketches and Inside Barges

The Helford River has not always been regarded as a tranquil retreat. For more than 2000 years it was a busy waterway for commercial traffic and industry. Andy Wyke, from the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, explores the ships, boats and trade from this forgotten past.

**Cost:** £2. Group members & children free.

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Gweek Village Hall, opposite the National Seal Sanctuary, TR12 6UG

**OS Ref:** SW 709 266

**Contact:** Paul 01326 341030 or  
Ian 01872 863171

### Saturday 18th February

#### Keeping dolphins out of fishing nets – The Pinger Trials

Acoustic deterrent devices (pingers) have been trialled on large offshore vessels to reduce dolphin and porpoise by-catch. Tom Hardy from Cornwall Wildlife Trust is now working with local fishermen on smaller inshore vessels. Results show that pingers are effective. The task is to identify a suitably priced and practical device, possibly the Fishtek 'banana' pinger currently on trial.

**Cost:** £2. Group members & children free.

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Gweek Village Hall, as above

**Contact:** Ruth 07967 251278 or  
Rhiannon 07710 956734

### Saturday 31st March

#### Leatherback Turtles and their Jellyfish prey & AGM

Leatherback turtles have the widest distribution of any reptile, moving through tropical and temperate waters. During the past two decades much has been learned about their everyday lives. With ecologist Dr Matthew Witt we will dive into their lifestyles and look at the behaviour and favourite foods of these long-lived, but at-risk, creatures.

**Cost:** £2. Group members & children free.

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Gweek Village Hall, as above

**Contact:** Paul 01326 341030 or  
Charles 07795 845696

## April



## May



### Tuesday 10th April

#### Seashore Safari

Join Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Marine Conservation Officer 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. Wear non-slip rock-scrambling shoes that you are prepared to get wet! Bring small nets and plastic buckets if you wish.

**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

**Meet:** In front of the Ferryboat Inn, Helford Passage, TR11 5LB

**OS Ref:** SW 764 269

**Contact:** Ruth 07967 251278 or  
Charli 07740 090777

### Sunday 15th April

#### 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. Binoculars, weatherproof clothing, and robust footwear advised. **Booking required.** Max 30.

**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 09.30 – 12.00 a.m.

**Meet:** Entrance to the road to Calamansack, between Port Navas and Constantine.

**OS Ref:** SW 746 281

**Contact:** Martin 01326 561164 or  
07854 123 877

### Sunday 20th May

#### Botany, Wildlife and Conservation

The beautiful gardens at Budock Vean cover 32 acres, incorporating woodland, parkland, formal and informal beds and the valley gardens and ponds. Ecologically sound practice has ensured that the rich diversity of wild flora and fauna has increased. With botanist Keith Spurgin find out more about the flora and how the hotel manages its natural environment.

**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

**Meet:** Budock Vean Hotel, Helford Passage, Mawnan Smith, TR11 5LG

**OS Ref:** SW 761 276

**Contact:** Abby 07917 765581 or  
Charles 07795 845696

## June



### Wednesday 6th June

#### What's beneath your feet?

Have you ever 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. Bring trowels / small spades and containers if you wish, plus suitable footwear.

**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 1.00 – 3.00 p.m.

**Meet:** In front of the Ferryboat Inn, Helford Passage, TR11 5LB

**OS Ref:** SW 764 269

**Contact:** Pamela 01209 842316 or Charli 07740 090777

### Sunday 1st July

#### 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. Bring weatherproof clothing. Binoculars could be useful.

**Advance booking essential** (see below)

**Cost:** Adults £8 and Under-18s £4

**Time:** 2.30 – 5.00 p.m.

**Depart:** The Ferryboat Inn jetty, Helford Passage on the NORTH shore, TR11 5LB

**OS Ref:** SW 764 269

**Contact:** 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'.

### Tuesday 21st August

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

*Photo competition – see page 9*



## September



## October



**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 1.30 – 3.30 p.m.

**Meet:** Meet at Mawnan Church TR11 5HY at the end of Old Church Road or join us on the shore.

**OS Ref:** Mawnan Church SW 788 272, Prisk Cove SW 794 276

**Contact:** Ruth 07967 251278 or Charles 07795 845696

### Friday 7th September

#### Evening Seal Spectacular at the Gweek Seal Sanctuary

Discover what Cornwall's marine teams do to conserve those enigmatic creatures – seals – on our coastal doorstep! From 5.30pm view the seals and browse the stalls of British Divers Marine Life Rescue, Cornwall Seal Group, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and HMCG. At 6.30pm, Sanctuary staff will describe their work in conserving seals, followed by a talk in the underwater pool area from the Cornwall Seal Group. **Booking required.** Max.50.

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

**Time:** 5.30pm entrance. Café open. Talks start at 6.30pm.

**Meet:** Gweek Seal Sanctuary TR12 6UG

**OS Ref:** SW 708 266

**Contact:** Abby 07917 765581 or abby.crosby@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

### Sunday 21st October

#### Fungus Foray

A highlight of the last Goongillings Exploration was the array of fascinating fungi in Scott's Wood. Join Pauline Penna to discover what the damp autumn weather has brought out this year. Weatherproof clothing and robust footwear advised. **Booking required.** Max.25.

**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

**Meet:** Goongillings Farm, 1km S of Constantine, near Trengilly Wartha Inn TR11 5RP

**OS Ref:** SW 735 283

**Contact:** Martin 07854 123877

*Photo competition – see page 9*

## July



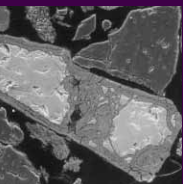
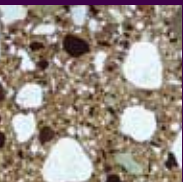
## August



## November



## December



## January 2013



### Saturday 24th November

#### 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 & children free.

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Gweek Village Hall, opposite the National Seal Sanctuary, TR12 6UG

**OS Ref:** SW 709 266

**Contact:** Abby 07917 765581 or  
David 01326 340686

### Saturday 8th December

#### Cornish Estuarine Sediments: Human Impact versus Natural Processes

Estuarine habitats depend considerably on their sediments. In parts of Cornwall much of these sediments resulted from past mining, ranking them amongst the most contaminated in the world with respect to Cu, Pb, Zn, As, Sn and Cd. The Helford is less affected than many, but the impact is still present. Duncan Pirrie will explore the issues and suggest that the best strategy is to minimise remobilisation.

**Cost:** £2. Group members & children free.

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Gweek Village Hall, as above

**Contact:** Paul 01326 341030 or  
David 01326 340686

### Saturday 19th January 2013

#### The Cultural Heritage of the Helford Estuary and Beyond –10,000 years of change

From early hunter-gatherers to Iron Age farmers and medieval communities who created a settlement pattern that remains little changed today, James Gossip will trace the cultural history of the Helford and Lizard through its wealth of archaeological evidence.

**Cost:** £2. Group members & children free.

**Time:** 7.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Gweek Village Hall, as above

**Contact:** Martin 07854 123877 or  
Ian 01872 863171

*Photo competition – see page 9*

## Community, Commerce and Conservation working together!

The Helford River, together with the Fal estuary, has been selected as a Special Area of Conservation. This is a European designation aimed at protecting rare and threatened wildlife, representing the most important conservation sites in Europe.

The Helford Marine Conservation Group is a non-statutory organisation composed of a wide circle of people with a specific interest and concern for this working marine environment.

An advisory and a membership committee work together providing an active network for users whilst highlighting the marine conservation issues by:

- Widening public awareness of the very special importance of the Helford River
- Encouraging the sensitive and enjoyable use of the river
- Sending regular newsletters to members
- Organising talks, events, walks and other activities

By joining the Helford Marine Conservation Group you will be actively helping to conserve this beautiful estuary.

Membership is open to everyone: local residents, visitors, sailors, fishermen, businesses and anyone who is interested in conserving this special and unique river for future generations.

#### Help to Protect Helford's Unique Marine Heritage

**Membership rates are:** Individual £5, Family £10, Corporate Member £50 and Corporate Sponsor £100. Please make cheques payable to 'Helford Marine Conservation Group'. All monies will go towards the aims of the Group and the conservation of the Helford River.

**To apply for HMCG membership or for more information please contact Ian Jakeways, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Saffron Meadow, Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8RW. Telephone (01872) 863171 for enquiries**

#### Helford Photo Competition 2012

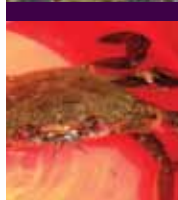
Photograph the marvellous communities, wildlife and activities of the Helford!

Entry forms and details of adults' and children's classes available from:

**Rhiannon Pipkin, 4 St. Michaels Rd., Ponsanooth, Truro, TR3 7EA  
Tel: 07710 956734  
Email: Rhiannon.Pipkin@yahoo.com**

Photographs to be submitted to Gweek Village Hall between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Saturday 24th November 2012 for judging and display at that evening's event.

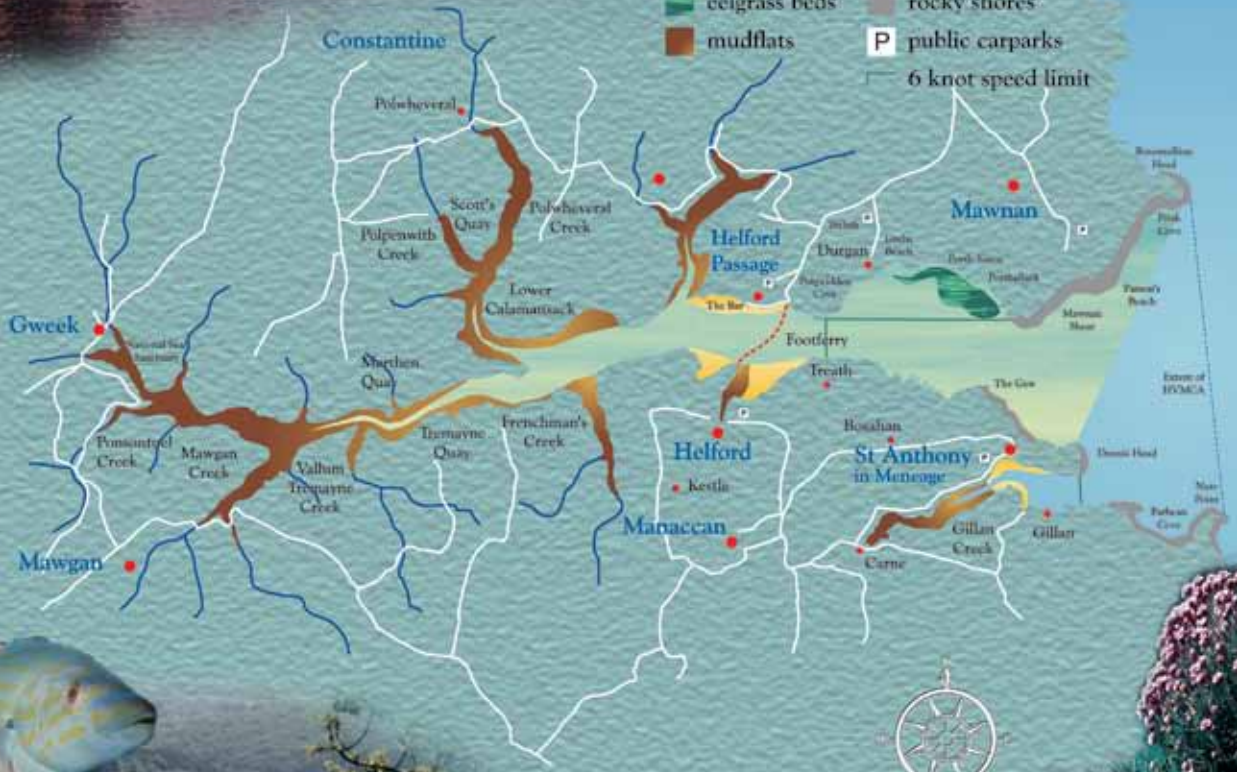
The best photographs may be added to the HVMCA Website and displayed in Great Atlantic Galleries, Falmouth!



# HELFDORD VOLUNTARY MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

Helford VMCA is a designated  
Special Area of Conservation and is within the  
Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- bass nursery
- sand & shingle
- eelgrass beds
- rocky shores
- mudflats
- P public car parks
- 6 knot speed limit



## SEASHORE CODE

When on the shore, remember to follow the seashore code to stay safe and help protect Helford's beaches.

- ★ Please leave live animals and seaweeds where you find them, only take photos home.
- ★ Always put overturned rocks back carefully as you found them.
- ★ Make sure a shell is empty before taking it home.
- ★ Take your litter home with you or put it in a bin.
- ★ Be careful on the shore at all times; check the tides and keep away from the cliffs.
- ★ Report anything unusual washed up on the beach or spotted offshore to [www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/marinesighting](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/marinesighting).

**Contact address:** If you require more information about any of the events listed or would like to find out more about the Helford VMCA please contact:

**Tel:** Charlotte Marshall (07740 090777) or David Thomson (01326 340686)

**Email:** [coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk](mailto:coordinator@helfordvmca.co.uk)

### Photo credits:

A Adams, A Bromley, Budock Vean Hotel, J Edwards, J Ellis, P Garrard, O Hill, T Hardy, H.E. at Cornwall Council, J Hoyler, H Jackson, D Jarvis, A Langdon, D Murphy, A Oakes, D Pirrie, T Sutton, P Tompsett, M Witt.

### Thanks to all HMCG Supporters:

Atkins-Ferrie Chartered Accountants, Cornwall AONB, Cornwall Council, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Natural England, The Duchy of Cornwall, The National Marine Aquarium, The National Seal Sanctuary, The National Trust

### Thanks to recent Corporate Members and Sponsors:

Alanco Garage, Blue Chip Holidays, Budock Vean Hotel, Carwinion Gardens, Cornish Cruising, Cornish Holiday Cottages, Fugro Seacore, Great Atlantic Galleries, Heather & Lay, Helford River Moorings, Hine Downing, Mylor Building Co., Richard Winfrey Kitchens, Trebah Garden Trust, Trelowarren

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