

MARINE FEST 2023

THURSDAY 8TH TO MONDAY 12TH JUNE

Join us for a packed programme of fun and thought-provoking events, exhibitions, workshops, trails and science shows. This programme lists all the bookable events but please keep checking our website and social media for additional activities.

THURSDAY 8 JUNE

UNDER THE SEA

10:45 – 11:30 & 12:00 – 12:45
(£6.50, discount for SSC members)

Explore the ocean through our hands-on, tactile play. Dress for mess as our learning team dives deep into life below the waves. Our fun sensory play will help your little one explore, create and learn.

Suitable for pre-school children.

COASTAL WILDLIFE TOUR

11:00 – 12:30 (£7.50, discount for SSC members)

Join our Conservation Officer for a relaxing 1.5 hour wildlife tour along the coast to find out more about the seabirds, shorebirds, and cetaceans that can be spotted around Scotland. Learn more about bird ID, starting with the basics and covering some of the most iconic species found around the Scottish coastline.

Sea Change wine is supporting this event and all attendees can enjoy a glass of their delicious wine on arrival for the evening.

Suitable for 16+

SOLUTIONS TO POLLUTION WITH FIDRA

12:00 – 16:00 (drop in, FREE)

Do you know your nurdles? Are problem chemicals PFAS popping up in your favourite sea creature? The team from environmental charity Fidra are here to help with hands on activities and expert insights into plastic and chemical pollution. Drop by our stand in the Seabird Centre to find out how pollution impacts our oceans and explore how you can be the solution to pollution!

STORYTELLING

13:00 – 13:45 (£5 per ticket, SSC members FREE)

Take a seat in our theatre and let our Discovery Experience staff transport you to the underwater worlds of a few of our favourite sea-themed short stories. This event is suitable for pre-school children with an accompanying adult.

CITIZEN SCIENCE SESSION

14:00 – 15:00

(FREE, donations welcome)

Join our Conservation Officer for an outdoor, interactive introduction to marine citizen science, exploring our new citizen science trail around North Berwick. Learn what citizen science is, why it's important and discover how you can get involved in collecting data to safeguard wildlife and habitats. *This event is aimed at adults 18+ but younger teenagers and children can come along if accompanied by an adult.*

FRIDAY 9 JUNE

WILD SWIMMING STORIES & CARING FOR OUR SEAS

09:00 – 10:00 (£10 per ticket)

The benefits of wild swimming are well-documented and seasoned swimmers Vicky Allan and Anna Deacon celebrate the most reinvigorating and rewarding swimming spots around the UK in their series of unique guides. Join us to hear from them as they share their hard-earned secrets and in being close to nature, they also consider the environmental aspects, thinking about biosecurity, water access and the plastic problem.

SPEED SKETCHING BY THE SEA WITH THE EDINBURGH SKETCHER

10:45am – 12:45pm
(£30 per ticket)

Inspired by our stunning coastal location, you will learn speed sketching skills with Mark, also known as the Edinburgh Sketcher. From close up studies of shells and plant life to sea views out to Bass Rock, you will create a number of drawings in ink and watercolour. All materials supplied.

SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST – POP UP

10:00 – 12:00 (drop in FREE)

Scottish Wildlife Trust's Living Seas team are on hand to chat about their marine work and the Snorkel Trails, including those in North Berwick.

OCEANS OF VALUE – FILM SCREENING & WORKSHOP

13:00 – 14:00

(FREE, donations welcome.

Please register to join as tickets are limited)

Come along and watch Scottish Wildlife Trust's Community Voice Method film and find out how local people in Orkney value their coasts and seas. Topics explored in the film include Orcadian traditions and dialect related to the sea, how people use the coasts and seas, the key issues and hopes for the future. A workshop follows the screening with a discussion on the themes raised.

ROCKPOOL RAMBLE

13:30 – 15:00

(£10 adult £7.50 child, discounts for SSC members)

Enjoy a brief talk followed by a guided ramble along the nearby rocky shore. From scuttling crabs to beautiful anemones and seaweeds, you'll be amazed by the variety of life and the different adaptations of the creatures you meet. Perfect for anyone with an interest in marine creatures, wearing wellies, and spending time outdoors!

WORLD OCEAN DAY ADVISORY COUNCIL – CAITLIN TURNER

15:30 – 16:30 (FREE, donations welcome. Please register to join as tickets are limited.)

Caitlin Turner will talk about her role on the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and on how having a global view can help better care for Scottish seas. Caitlin is a young marine biologist and conservationist, passionate about marine protection, amplifying the voices of young people in the environmental sphere, and supporting coastal and island communities in protecting and managing their local seas.

SATURDAY 10 JUNE

GANNET GAMES

10:30 – 11:30 (£7.50 child, accompanying adult FREE)

Join the Scottish Seabird Centre team as they follow in the wingbeats of Georgie, a brave young gannet born on Bass Rock, as she overcomes challenges in becoming a fully-grown gannet. Take part in a number of fun, interactive beach games to sharpen your gannet survival skills such as nest building, endurance, and speed.

GUIDED SNORKEL TOUR

10:00 – 13:00 (£75)

Experienced guide Laura Curtis Moss will take you through the basics of snorkelling then lead an exploration around East Lothian Snorkel Trail's North Berwick locations. This session includes a safety briefing, the basics of snorkelling and an overview of the marine life you can expect to see. *Suitable for beginners age 14+.* Masks, snorkel and fins provided. *Please bring your own wetsuit, plus boots and gloves. All participants should be able to swim 100 metres.*

MEET THE LOBSTER

11:30 – 11:50

(FREE, donations welcome)

Come along to the hatchery to learn all about adult lobsters and their babies! There will be a short introductory talk followed by the invitation to come inside the hatchery and meet lots of baby lobsters.

BE A MARINE BIOLOGIST FOR THE DAY

12:30 – 15:30 (£15)

Get hands on at the Lobster Hatchery and take part in activities such as larvae counting, water testing, lobster care and rockpooling. Great for any budding marine biologists. Recommended for age 8+ (parents are welcome to accompany). Please contact hatchery at info@firthoforthlobsterhatchery.org.uk to book.

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Seabird
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SATURDAY 10 JUNE

BEACH CLEAN

13:00 – 14:00 (FREE)

Join us to remove marine debris from the North Berwick coastline, whilst enjoying some amazing marine wildlife and habitats with like-minded people. This beach clean will cover East and/or West beach in North Berwick - we will cover as much ground as possible within 1 hour.

LIVE SCIENCE SHOW

WAAATTSZAAAP!

14:00 – 15:00

(£5 for adults, Children Free)

Professor Egghead has some great new gadgets and toys but no batteries! He needs some clean power from renewables and perhaps using turbines and tides or turning the sun into fun might just help? Join us at this interactive live science show to find out more.

ROCKPOOL RAMBLE

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child, discount for SSC members)

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SUNDAY 11 JUNE

DRAWING AT SEA

10:00 – 13:30 (£25)

Join Chris Wallbank who will lead this fun and interactive workshop where participants will be guided through some of the key challenges and approaches to drawing wild mammals and birds from life, at sea. Following a classroom session, you will have the chance to draw outdoors with the spectacular views of the Forth coast as a backdrop or, by working in the studio from a range of reference material.

Age 16+

PUPPET SHOW – WHAT'S FOR SNACK?

11:00 – 11:45 (£5, children FREE)

Join Craig the Crab for this interactive puppet show. With sing-a-long fun, young visitors will be asked to help Craig who has eaten some marine litter by mistake. He will be joined by some of his seaside friends who will aim to help him get rid of his sore tummy.

RNLI POP UP

12:00 – 14:00 (drop in, FREE)

North Berwick's RNLI volunteers will be on site to pass on vital sea safety advice to help you enjoy your trip to the seaside safely and other information about how you can help them save lives at sea.

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CRAFTY KIT COMPANY – PAINT WITH WOOL NEEDLE FELTING

15:00 – 17:00 (£20)

Join Jo Lochhead from The Crafty Kit Company and spend a relaxing hour learning how to 'Paint with Wool'. You'll create your own unique, needle felted masterpiece of the iconic Bass Rock, using 100% wool and sharp felting needles. Everything is provided, and 50% of the proceeds will be donated to The Scottish Seabird Centre.

FILM SCREENING – THE OIL MACHINE

16:00 – 17:45

(FREE, donations welcome. Spaces are limited please register to join.)

The Oil Machine explores our economic, historical and emotional entanglement with oil by looking at the conflicting imperatives around North Sea oil. This invisible machine at the core of our economy and society now faces an uncertain future as activists and investors demand change.

CATAMARAN EVENING CRUISE

19:45 – 21:00

(Adult £27, conc £25, child £12)

A family friendly trip on board the Seabird Catamaran. This trip takes you around Craigleith, to spot the puffins, before heading to the Bass Rock, home to the largest colony of northern gannets in the world. Fantastic trip for all ages, keep a look out for seals and dolphins too!

MONDAY 12 JUNE

UNDER THE SEA

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MEET THE SCIENTIST WITH COLIN MOFFAT – THE FUTURE OF OUR OCEANS (ONLINE EVENT)

19:00 – 20:00

(FREE, donations welcome. Please register to join online.)

Professor Colin Moffat, a highly-regarded marine science expert, takes a look at the consequences of human behaviour on our oceans worldwide and considers what we might do to reduce those impacts. Colin is a Trustee of the Scottish Association of Marine Science. He continues to study contamination of aquatic systems by microplastics and pharmaceuticals, as well as the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change.

THURSDAY 8 JUNE TO MONDAY 12 JUNE

EXHIBITION – ART IN ACTION: NOT JUST A LOAD OF RUBBISH

10:00 – 17:00 (Suggested donation £5, members free)

This exhibition captures the result of 100 beach cleans, carried out by Elizabeth Vischer, artist, nature enthusiast and avid beach comber.

FIRTH OF FORTH LOBSTER HATCHERY

10:00 – 16:00

(drop in, donations welcome)

Firth of Forth Lobster Hatchery is open every day, welcoming visitors to meet baby lobsters and look around the education container. Pick up a special activity sheet during opening hours for Marine Fest. Please note the opening of the hatchery is weather dependent.

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