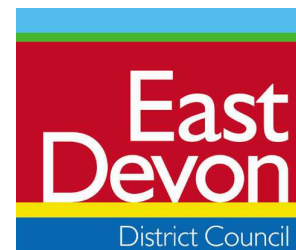




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



# News Service

**31 July 2007**

ANNUAL COASTAL FESTIVAL RETURNS

## **To be beside the seaside!**

EAST Devon District Council's annual Coastal Festival returns this August, with events along the coast on beaches and coast paths throughout the month.

The Festival kicks off on Wednesday 1 August, on Jacob's Ladder beach, Sidmouth from 2pm.

"With so much attention focussing on East Devon's beaches this year, we are hoping for a really successful Festival," said East Devon District Council's Countryside Service Manager, Charlie Plowden.

"The world's eye fell upon us and our coast with the Napoli incident, and now is the District Council's chance to show the best that our beaches and coast paths have to offer," continued Charlie.

Rockpooling events will be offered along with beach art activities and storytelling with James Chubb, the Council's Education Ranger, on hand to interpret the marine world.

"Rockpools are a magnificent window into our seas," explained James. "Something amazing turns up every year, with massive spider crabs being the feature of last year's Festival.

"The marine ecosystem is in the public eye more than ever before, with the Government's Marine Bill featuring regularly in the national news. This Festival is not only a celebration of a wonderful natural resource, it's also an opportunity to discover more about it and possibly, by doing so, appreciate it even more."

On the days when the tides make rockpooling impossible there will be guided walks along the South West Coast Path, including a long yomp through the Undercliffs Nation Nature Reserve between Seaton and Lyme Regis.

For those feeling less energetic, there will be an organised sea watching event on Beer Head later in the month, looking for whales, dolphins and pelagic seabirds.

All the events are free! A full list of dates and venues is attached and details are also available on the District Council's website and by ringing the Countryside Service on 01395 517557.

## **Ends**

### **\*\*Photo opportunity\*\***

Editors are invited to make the most of the crowds and send staff photographers to Jacob's Ladder beach on Wednesday afternoon. James Chubb will be leading rockpool rambles throughout the afternoon, and will be on hand to arrange photo opportunities. James can be contacted on 07734 568985.

For information, please contact:

**Nick Stephen, Communications Officer on 01395 517559**

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[www.eastdevon.gov.uk](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk)