

This letter contains information about Mourne Heritage Trust's summer Shore Footed programme, a series of coastal awareness events to help people get closer to our coast this summer.

Greetings!

I am pleased to be able to send you the summer programme of Shore Footed events that we are running, thanks to funding from the Loughs Agency, during the next two months.

All of these events aim to increase people's confidence and knowledge of their coastline, by getting out and experiencing it first hand.

Regular Events...

Seashore Safaris are aimed at families and will combine games and beachcombing with a few key messages about the sea and the life within it, aided by guides from the Ulster Wildlife Trust. **Guided Walks** are more for older children and adults as they will talk about coastal issues in more detail, while also exploring the local shoreline and discovering what creatures we share the shore with.

Our first events are next week at **Chestnutt Caravan Park, Cranfield West**, where we will be exploring the shoreline on Wednesday 2nd July and having a bit more of a ramble on Thursday 3rd July. Do join us if you're in the area. We'll be meeting outside the Main Office at 10am on both days, but please be on time as, like the tide, we won't wait!

One-off events...

There are several events within the programme that we are helping to publicise for other groups.

- **Don't Rubbish Rostrevor** is a chance to get personally involved in caring for our coastline and waterways by helping to clear up the Fairy Glen and the Rostrevor beach with the local community association. They will be providing all the necessary equipment and even refreshments to keep everyone going on the day. It's a great way to make a difference as every piece of litter lifted makes a massive impact on the appearance and health of the river and seashore.
- **Marine Week Festival** is a similar event to World Ocean Day, a chance for you to find out information and take part in activities run by a host of different organisations and charities. We are privileged to be joined by the Marine Conservation Society's Cool Seas Roadshow, complete with lifesize inflatable basking sharks, dolphins, seals and turtles, which will be the centrepiece of the event.
- **Wrackbeds of Mill Bay** is a special guided walk run through Mourne Heritage Trust's Rural Heritage programme and looks at the links between the seashore and the landscape of the Mournes, the sunken wrackbeds now almost hidden by sand being a critical resource and a den of intrigue, toil and family feuds in the not-so-distant past.
- **Whalewatch Ireland** is a national event organised by the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group which gives everyone a chance to watch the seas with local experts and possibly see some of the many cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoise) that can be seen from the coast all around Ireland. Detailed information about the day is not yet known, but keep an eye on their website for more information www.iwdg.ie

- **Mourne Coast Big Beach Clean** – This event is not on the programme but will be taking place on the weekend of the **20/21st September**. Please put this date in your diaries as MHT, in partnership with many other groups and organisations, hopes to lift as much litter as possible from the Mourne Coast. More details coming soon, but do let me know if you would like to be involved, or have a local group you think would like to participate in the event.

If you would like more information about any of the events above then please let me know. The Mourne Heritage Trust website should soon be updated with more Shore Footed information, and keep your eye on the local press for reports and pictures from the events we hold.

Other News...

World Ocean Day was a great success and saw the launch of Shore Footed on Sunday 8th June at Chestnutt Caravan Park, Cranfield West. We had about 150 people join us on the day who took part in all sorts of different craft activities, games and quizzes. There was the chance to participate in the seashore sculpture competition which saw a high level of talent, both in engineering and creativity as families battled to build the tallest lighthouse and create a sculpture with a wildlife theme.

Sadly due to a technical error we lost the pictures from World Ocean Day which I am extremely sad about, so if anyone has any pictures taken on the day, please let me know as I would be delighted to have copies of them!

Finally, part of the funding we have received from Loughs Agency was to fund wildlife watching boat trips. The local boat charter companies can only take 12 people/boat, so spaces are limited.

I will be arranging these on a first come, first served basis. We will be charging a nominal cost of £5 a head to cover costs. The aim is, having experienced the shoreline, to get a completely different perspective on the coast and its wildlife from the water. These trips will run around Carlingford Lough and give people an opportunity to experience wildlife from the water, including being able to watch the seals and their pups up on the islands around the mouth of the Lough, as well as the breeding terns and gulls. If you and your family are interested in taking part in one of these trips please let me know as soon as possible.

Places are limited, so please reply ASAP with the number of seats you require to guarantee a place on board! There will be several dates available.

I hope you find the information in this letter useful, and I look forward very much to meeting you at some of our events.

Best wishes,

Catherine Bertrand
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<http://www.mournelive.com/>

If you wish to stop receiving information about Shore Footed, please contact me on the number above and I will remove you from the mailing list.

I have also included information about National Garden Moth Fortnight which you and your family may be interested in getting involved in.