

having a really good intake of books earlier in the year, we have now reached a very low level of stock and if anyone has any books that they would like to donate to the Centre, please drop them in to us at any time, or give us a call to arrange delivery.

As the Autumn months approach, I am looking to bring new stock into the shop which I hope will help give ideas to people looking for the ideal Christmas gift (yes, it's nearly that time again) and, of course, we'll have the usual stocking fillers available. Maybe we could even help you in selecting your gift.

I am enjoying my time at the Centre and would like to thank everyone for their support, and look forward to the months ahead.

## **Total number of visitors to the Centre for 2009**

**as of 30/08/2009**

**69,007**

**plus 95 schools - 3949 pupils**

**Grand total: 72,956**

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## **Forthcoming Events for your Diary**

NB. All lectures will take place at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre.  
Tea will be available from 3.30 pm. Lectures start at 4.00 pm.

### **Lectures**

**Thursday October 15th 2009**

**Nigel Smallbones -  
Warden of Berry Head Country Park. General talk on his area.**

**Thursday December 3rd 2009**

**Neil Garrick-Maidment -  
Executive Director of the Sea Horse Trust.**

**Thursday January 21st 2010**

**Peter Prichard -  
Lyme Bay Sector Manager of the Maritime Coastguard Agency.**

## **Annual Dinner**

**at**

**Highlands End**

**Thursday February 25th 2010**

## **Chris Horton Chairman of the Friends writes:**

August has passed and September is here which means that the families, so numerous during the school holidays, have made way for the grandparents and a more mature group of visitors. Whatever the age group everyone seems to find something at our Centre which they can appreciate and enjoy. This, of course, says a great deal for the enthusiasm and skill of Meirel and her team but they are the first to acknowledge that without the support of The Friends their aims and aspirations would be impossible to achieve.

Hence a very sincere "Thank You" needs to be said to all of those members who have spent time at the desk meeting and greeting visitors, to all of those who have helped with school parties and Public Walks and, indeed, to anyone who has helped in any way. Although we have welcomed a few new volunteers we do, also, continue to lose some for a variety of reasons and there are times when it becomes difficult to provide adequate support and some volunteers are being asked to do more and more. There are new people moving into the area so please do what you can to encourage them to join and support us.

In the meantime with winter approaching we can look forward to some interesting lectures which Jean Kesterton has arranged for us - thank you Jean. As is traditional the first of these, in October, we regard as the "End of Season" meeting when everyone is invited to have a glass of wine and celebrate another very successful summer. Please try to support the other lectures and if anyone has a request for a future topic or can recommend a speaker Jean would be very pleased to hear from you.

## **Chairman of Trustees**

The Centre has had a very good summer, the fickle weather has helped, but the main reason why we have done well is what is on offer. Meirel and her Warden team have done a tremendous job in presenting the interesting story told in the Centre, coupled with a very good programme of events. However, this would not have happened without the dedicated help and knowledge of the Friends, upon whom we rely, to be the welcoming face that greets

## **Nikki Hills - Seasonal Warden aka Shark Tooth Sid**

Well I can't really believe my season here at the centre is almost coming to an end but I've had a fantastic time working here. I've really enjoyed working with the kids and rambling about in the rockpools. I spent a lot of my time preparing for Marine Week which I'm pleased to say was very successful...and we certainly had fun (the Pirate pics say it all!) We ran a number of new activities for Marine Week this year including 'Submarine Portholes' and a 'Pirate Treasure Hunt' which were very popular. I've had a great summer and met some very interesting characters! Thank you so much to everyone for making me feel so welcome.



## **Jacky Martin – Senior Administrator**

My first few months as Administrator at the Centre have been challenging, rewarding and very busy. The view from my office has never looked this good before!! It has also been a pleasure to be working as part of the 'new team' starting around the same time as Phil, Nikki and Ali.

Part of my role is to ensure the shop is kept regularly stocked and to research new items for sale. One of the ideas for this year has been to sell the 'Friends' CHCC polo shirt to the public for the first time, and is proving popular so far. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that the polo shirts are available to Friends, for their own use, at the regular Friends price, and we will be keeping a selection of colours and sizes on sale which you can purchase at any time of the year rather than waiting for the regular order in the Spring.

Another boost to our funds has been the sale of second hand books, again popular with both the public and Friends alike. After

Street, Somerset all about Lower Jurassic fossils. Due to bad weather we had to rearrange the field trip and Richard Edmonds and I brought around forty of the worlds leading palaeontologists to the Centre and then on to Lyme Regis. It was a great opportunity to raise the profile of the Centre and to show some of the academics the important work we do here.

I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome since I moved down here. It has been hard leaving London, leaving friends and family behind; but I don't think I'm in any rush to get back to the delays on the Circle Line and hustle and bustle. I think I enjoy paddling in the sea on my lunch breaks too much!

**Alison Ferris - Seasonal Warden.  
aka Mad Scuffy Gott!**

I have really enjoyed working at the it has been a great experience doing all the walks, events and activities. I enjoyed the chance to come up with new ideas for events and activities including the new fossil magnet making and dinosaur egg art! The dinosaur eggs have been popular with the young kids, and they have been painting them very weird and wonderful colours! I also had the chance to redesign the marine reptiles display cabinet. David Sole very kindly gave us the front end of an ichthyosaur on loan, which looks great in the cabinet accompanied by some new diagrams. I have enjoyed the big events such as the fossil festival and the marine week, especially dressing up as a pirate! I will be very sad to leave the centre as I've met so many nice people who made it very welcoming!



our visitors, the start of the 'feel good factor' upon which the Centre survives.

**A very big thank you to you all.**

**Richard Salisbury**



**Our fearsome pirate team**

**Meirel Whaites — Senior Pirate  
aka Mad Jack Mytton**

Well what a season! Despite the credit crunch we have had an extremely busy summer as I think many people have stayed on British shores instead of heading abroad this year. The new team of Phil, Nikki and Ali have been worth their weight in gold, and also the addition of three work experience students over the holidays who have been a great help too. Cecile Guerin who has been with us for 5 weeks from Paris, France and



lodging with Merol Kalmar, Natalie Mayer who was so dedicated she gave up a week of her summer holidays at the ripe old age of 15, quite a rarity especially as she came all the way from Orpington, Kent and finally Simon Purvis, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year geology student from Poole, Dorset. Also, great thanks must be given to David Parfett (age 11) who has been helping us out during the holidays for the past 7 years!..... Plus Terry and Tracy Fitzgerald who regularly bomb up the A38 from Plymouth to give us a hand on walks and events, when they are not studying for their geology degree at Plymouth University We have had the usual fun of Marine Week, which Nikki (Marine Warden) will report on and new activities and displays by Phil and Ali, but I'm sure they will tell you all about it in their own reports.

The Friends of the Centre have been of great support again in the running of the desk and assisting on walks, but as ever with many things...we can never have too many, so if you know of anyone who may like to come on board, please tell them to pop into the Centre or give us a ring. Our thanks again to the Friends as a whole for the purchase of some new fossil and marine life moulds for our activity sessions, and also for contributing towards the cost of the new film show for the Jurassic Theatre. Our special thanks also to the O'Connor Family for their personal donation of £1,000 towards the film show as well.

The new microscope is now in place, and we are awaiting the digital camera attachment from the suppliers so it will be up and running with a new computer monitor shortly. Our thanks to the Jurassic Coast Trust for funding the above item.

Our winter events programme is now planned right through to Easter next year and all events will be on the website shortly. New additions to this years programme include changes to the format of the Rocks and Fossils Weekend by Phil, the introduction of Fossil Fantastic Days as well as our usual weekend sessions and we have a couple of other events at the planning stage, but I will keep you posted on those ones as we go!

On a more personal level, the garden is looking lovely, despite the mishap with the lawnmower cable and my back and lip (ha ha),

the tomatoes got mildew (poor devils), the courgettes are holding their own, but the runner beans have been going like the clappers... thank god for the chest freezer is all I can say!

I hope you have all had a fantastic summer and I'm sure I will see you soon!

Ps. Check out the photograph of the Pirate Day and you may get a measure of the sanity of the Warden team during Marine Week this year! Ha ha ha

### **Phil Davidson, Geological Warden aka Pirate Captain Red Beard**

I've almost survived my first summer here at Charmouth and I think I need another holiday! I've been amazed how busy the Centre has been and that we still managed to find everyone fossils on all the walks we have done. It has been chaotic at times, but with the help of our dedicated volunteers and Cecile, Natalie and Simon we have had a great season.



I have really enjoyed my time here and enjoyed getting stuck into some of my projects. I have been working with many of the local collectors to try and redo some of the cabinet displays. I would like to especially thank David Sole who has loaned the Centre a fantastic ichthyosaur and fossil dragonfly wing. I have also been putting together the Rocks and Fossils weekend events programme and my friend Dr Tim Ewin from the Natural History Museum will be joining us for one of the days. I also managed to arrange for the BBC to film one of our fossil walks for a series they are making about the Natural History Museum. It should be aired on BBC 2 sometime in the autumn and I will let you know when (I'm sure my mum will record it so if you miss it you can borrow the video!). Last month I attended a palaeontology seminar in