



Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

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Porcupine Marine Natural History Social Research Field-trip to Alderney

The Porcupine Marine Natural History Society (PMNHS), a group of top UK marine biologists are visiting Alderney for an exciting fun-filled marine ecology research field-trip. The society is an informal collection of marine experts which aim to examine marine life across the UK and Europe.



The name “Porcupine” is taken from the naval survey vessel HMS Porcupine which was engaged on scientific expeditions in the N.E. Atlantic and Mediterranean in 1869 and 1870. She made the first ever deep ocean dredge for living creatures in 1869 resulting in the naming of the Porcupine Bank off the west coast of Ireland. The objectives of the society are: to promote a wider understanding of the biology, ecology and distribution of marine organisms; to stimulate interest in marine biodiversity, especially in young people and; to encourage interaction and exchange of information between those with interests in different aspects of marine biology, amateur and professional alike. More

information regarding the PMNHS can be found here: <https://pmnhs.co.uk/>.

The aim of this field-trip is to record the island’s rich, yet under-recorded marine habitats and species; from scuba-diving Alderney’s sublittoral reef systems to scrabbling over rocky-shores and searching within sandy bays. Alderney’s marine environment is still very much undiscovered, with the group’s main objective to help enhance our current ecological records. Records will be freely available via the National Biodiversity Network Gateway, in due course time.

Approximately twenty-seven PMNHS members will be travelling to Alderney by boat and air from 12th September, for one week. The group will be enjoying the delights of the island’s hotels, guest-houses and restaurant hospitality and will be supported by the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT).

Dr Mel Broadhurst-Allen, Living Seas Coordinator says ‘We are thrilled that the society has chosen Alderney for their annual field-trip. Knowledge of our marine environment is growing, but having a group of independent experts visit our shores will certainly enhance the island’s evidence base substantially. Gaining new information is paramount, from identifying priority species, such as marine invasive non-natives, to those potentially vulnerable to climate change. We look forward to hearing about their exploratory marine life finds. We are grateful to Seasearch, the Alderney Harbour Authority and States of Alderney for their valued support and guidance.’

Background

About the Alderney Wildlife Trust

The Alderney Wildlife Trust is one of the 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the British Isles. We are the youngest of the Wildlife Trust, forming over 20 years ago and since then the AWT has received incredible support from a dedicated team of wildlife enthusiasts, what we like to think of as the 'TeamWilder'. This team isn't just limited to residents and AWT members, it includes people from all walks of life who have an interest in our island's wildlife, as well as supporters and organizations from around the world. We work with the local community to engage them with their natural environment to protect Alderney's wildlife for the future.

Our mission is to study, protect and champion Alderney's wildlife. We wish to see a thriving natural island where wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing our island's future and the climate and ecological emergencies that face us.

Alderney is a very special place and by helping the work of the Alderney Wildlife Trust you can make a difference. After all, if you love where you live, you'll want to look after it - Dr. George McGavin, Patron AWT

Notes to Media

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