

Marine Biology



Coming up



**Marine Biology Section Member's meeting
4th June 2026
Société Jersiaise Pier Road
(Arthur Mourant Room)**

Intertidal explorations

**The next intertidal walk will not take place,
instead we will be assisting with a student
project - details on the next page.**

<https://www.societe.je/our-sections/marine-biology/>
Facebook: Societe Jersiaise marine Biology Section

Assistance needed: Portelet survey

The marine biology section have been asked to support a student project. Nathan will be carrying out a crab survey and is requesting some assistance in order to be able to collect enough data. No prior experience is necessary.

Nathan will need help in taking photos, data entry, recording sizes, and collecting the crabs, so there will be a job that suits all abilities. The more people available, the easier and quicker the task is.

Details are as follows (times will be confirmed nearer the time):

Sunday 14th June (1:40 low tide) at Portelet Bay, meet around 10.30
Tuesday 16th June (2:42 low tide) at Ouaisne Bay, meet around 11.30
Wednesday 17th June (3.33 low tide) as backup date.

If you are able and willing to assist please let Nathan know asap on the following mobile number (07765 760779) and he will set up a whats app group to circulate information. Please also let the section know you are offering to help (marinebiology@societe.je) so we can keep track of members who are willing to assist. Please note this is not a section organised event. We are supporting Nathan with his student project, and all help is greatly appreciated. Once we know who is available Nathan will be in touch with more details. If you can only help one day that is fine - please let Nathan know which days you are available.

Action for Wildlife Event

Some of our members attended the Action for Wildlife event on the 17th May. Here are some of their finds.



Dolphins in Jersey

The section were delighted to welcome Gordon Pollock to the May meeting to talk about The Jersey Dolphin Project.

Gordon photographs the fins of local bottlenose dolphins to enable their identification and records the sounds they make underwater using hydrophones.

Fin databases are essential to help estimate the abundance and movement of dolphins. For example, a fin database in Scotland was used to confirm that 3 dolphins in Denmark originally came from the East coast of Scotland.

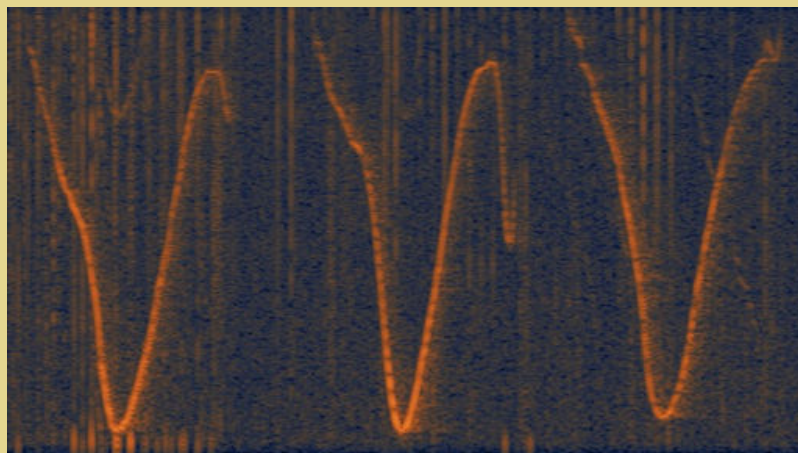


Dolphins in Jersey

Bottlenose dolphins make 3 main sounds – whistles, clicks and burst pulses – though the latter is a series of very fast clicks. So far Gordon has recorded more than 1,000 whistles, thousands of clicks and more than 300 burst pulses.

Whistles are used for identification and communication, and bottlenose dolphins are known to have a signature whistle or name that they learn from their mothers soon after birth and keep for life. Several signature whistles have been recorded of local dolphins but not yet matched to individual photographs.

Clicks are used for echolocation – hunting, finding their way around and monitoring other dolphins in their pod. Initial analysis of the recordings indicate that clicks may be used to identify individual dolphins at least in short sequences.



Dolphins in Jersey

Burst pulses are used to express emotion with click speeds sometimes exceeding 800 clicks per second. Humans hear such sounds as a continuous groan as we cannot separate individual sounds at that speed.

Both echolocation clicks and burst pulses can be very loud – more than 220dB. That's enough to stun a fish and louder than a jet engine.



Thankyou to Gordon for an informative presentation.