

Marine Science Information Day – Thursday 27th July 2017



Fifty members from various Hampshire South Central Network U3As attended this information day at the Institute of the Marine Science (IMS) Site based at Eastney Point. This facility is managed by Portsmouth University School of Biological Sciences which educates 500 students, including those studying Marine Biology and Aquatic Biology degrees. The Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) is an internationally acclaimed marine biology station providing high quality marine research and teaching, located within metres of the sea giving access to the varied marine ecosystems of the Solent European Marine Site. The new £2 million aquarium and laboratory suite adds to the extensive facilities available to trainees.



Our Information Day started with a thought provoking presentation on coastal environmental issues provided by Zoe Morrall who is a "Capturing our Coast" Project Officer. This led onto an overview of the various local Marine Species that can be found in the Solent presented by Sarah Long also part of the project. A lively question and answer session followed covering issues affecting local marine life.

After an excellent light lunch provided by the University we had a conducted tour of the facility's aquarium looking at a wide range of sea creatures including starfish, crabs etc., and then the extensive laboratory suite with an insight into some of the research conducted by post graduate students. Luke Helmer, a PhD researcher, gave us a fascinating talk on his Solent Oyster Restoration Project he is conducting in Langstone harbour areas with an aspiration to extend it to other Solent areas.



Finally we were provided with an overview of the capturing Our Coast Project and invited to volunteer as sea shore surveyors.

Feedback of the event was very positive, Members were impressed with the enthusiastic young people working so hard to help protect the very vulnerable sea life along our shores. The whole day was very thought provoking.