

PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 2009

For immediate Release



**Jurassic Coast Trust sponsors
'The Land that Time Forgot' Schools Project at
Evolution Rocks! Lyme Regis and Charmouth Fossil Festival 2009
(22nd – 24th May)**

The Jurassic Coast Trust¹ is one of the partners for this year's 'Evolution Rocks!' Fossil Festival² and along with Corporate Sponsor the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain³, one of the projects they are supporting is a Schools' Education Project 'The Land that Time Forgot'.

Three schools working in groups with artist Darrell Wakelam, were tasked with creating 3D artwork based on the fossils and geology of the 'Jurassic Coast'⁴ using the famous sketch 'Duria Antiquior'⁵ by Henry De La Beche as their inspiration. This artwork will be used in the Festival as part of the theatrical performance 'Herbie Treehead's Jurassic Underwater Show'.

Darrell Wakelam explained how fossils are formed and why the Jurassic Coast is so rich with fossils and so geologically significant. The children examined a variety of fossil finds and also looked at photographs of larger examples from local museum collections. Southwell, Musbury and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools took part and focused on the themes of ammonite, fossil fish, and Ichthyosaur. They created drawings, collage work and large 3D models.

Wakelam says "I was amazed by the level of detail the children managed to get into their main 3D ammonites, which were extremely effective. The fish they took home so impressed their parents that they went out to buy frames for them!"

James Weld, Chairman of the Jurassic Coast Trust says "We were delighted to provide funding for such a worthwhile project which encouraged children to relate the historic importance of the 'Duria Antiquior' to modern scientific theories. Using local fossils from the Portland quarry no doubt helped enormously and is an example of how exceptionally lucky we are to have the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site here on our doorstep."

He continues "We understand that this project also encouraged children to work in teams as part of a group, and we were delighted to hear that the children were so enthusiastic that they brought drawings in from home, as well as their own fossil finds. They should be highly commended for their hard work, and exceptional results. We look forward to seeing them at this year's Fossil Festival."

If you are coming to the Festival we hope you will see the results of this project 'The Land that Time Forgot' and come and visit us on our stand in Marquee 4 in Lyme Regis. The stand will also have interactive CDs and Trust publications on sale and we can tell you about the many projects we support. Young children can also have a go at discovering dinosaurs in the 'Dino Dig', another educational tool sponsored by the Trust.

– Ends –

Notes to Editor:

1. Note 1: The Jurassic Coast Trust (formerly The World Heritage Coast Trust) was established in 2002, Registered Charity Number 1101134. The Trust provides support for a diverse range of education,

conservation, science and arts projects, which help local people and visitors to enjoy and understand the geological history and beauty of the site. Funds are raised through different levels of support from large and small businesses, Project Sponsors, Individual Friend, Family and the sale of publications. For more information about the Trust visit www.jurassiccoasttrust.org

2. Note 2: 'Evolution Rocks!' is the fourth Lyme Regis Fossil Festival and is staged in an unusual partnership that includes the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Team, Natural History Museum, Geologist's Association, National Museum of Wales with the local community including Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, Lyme Regis Museum, local fossil collectors and experts, and National Oceanography Centre and Universities all of whom consider the event as an educational outreach platform. The Festival includes a Schools Day on Friday 22nd May when events are primarily geared to meet the needs of students and will also host the UK National Commission for UNESCO's 2009 World Heritage Education Conference and Youth Summit. For more information visit www.risingseas.co.uk
3. Note 3: The objective of the Petroleum Exploration Society (PESGB) is to promote, for the public benefit, education in the scientific and technical aspects of petroleum exploration. For more information about the Society. The PESGB is a Corporate Sponsor of the Jurassic Coast Trust paying an annual subscription towards education and geology projects, as well as supporting the annual Fossil Festival. Contact Paul Burnham on 020 7408 2000, or visit the website www.pesgb.org.uk.
4. Note 4: 185 million years of geological history forms England's first natural UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Jurassic Coast of Dorset and East Devon, which covers 95 miles of stunning coastline from Old Harry Rocks at Studland in the East to Orcombe Point in Exmouth in the West, was given this prestigious status in 2001. For further information about the Jurassic Coast visit www.jurassiccoast.com
5. Note 5: *Duria Antiquior* is the famous 1830 watercolor by the geologist Henry de la Beche depicting life in ancient Dorset based on fossils found by Lyme Regis local Mary Anning.