

Jurassic Coast

The Jurassic Coast Trust and the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival

The PESGB has become a corporate sponsor for the Dorset and East Devon based Jurassic Coast Trust. The Trust was set up in 2002 to provide support in the realms of education,

conservation, arts and science along the length of the Jurassic Coast in Dorset and East Devon, which is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is an honour the coastline shares with, amongst others, the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef so, quite rightly, it is in exalted company.



Left to Right, Jim Henderson (PESGB), Prof. Denys Brunnsden, James Weld & Nikki Greenleaf of the Jurassic Coast Trust.

The Land That Time Forgot. Herbie Treehead's "Duria Antiquior" street theatre project supported by the PESGB.



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Amongst its many activities the Trust sponsors the Lyme Regis and Charmouth Fossil Festival which has been held each year since 2005. This year's festival was larger than ever and held over three days, coinciding with the May Bank Holiday. I visited the festival with my family on behalf of the PESGB. We were blessed with beautiful weather and, apart from the dreadful holiday traffic, had a wonderful day out, admirably hosted by organisers of the festival together with executives and staff from the Trust.

The festival was spread across five marquees on the sea front, which hosted a diverse range of organisations and geologically related activities. Represented amongst these were the Natural History Museum and the National Museum of Wales, both exhibiting parts of their fossil collections. The universities of Bournemouth and Plymouth, and Southampton's National Oceanography Centre, all had stands, as did The Antarctic Survey which brought along some spectacular ammonites and meteorite samples. Numerous fossil collectors had stalls with specimens for sale and one of the marquees was dedicated to local museums including the Lyme Regis Museum. I was particularly impressed with a trestle table jam-packed with kids and parents being introduced to microscopy and micro fossils.

In addition there were art workshops and supervised fossil hunting walks along the coast, together with various lectures and discussions. I particularly enjoyed "Duria Antiquior" (ancient Dorset) a theatre show presented by Herbie Treehead where he and his cohorts fearlessly wrestled with fully grown plesiosaurs before placating them with Walker's potato crisps. I fear there may be a problem with geological accuracy here.



"Catch 'em young". Youngsters being introduced to microscopes and micro-fossils.

The Jurassic Coast Trust does a tremendous job and we at the PESGB are proud to support its activities. If you are looking for something to do next May Bank Holiday I would urge you to visit Lyme Regis for the fossil festival. It is great fun for young and old alike.

Thanks to Jim Henderson of Fairfield Energy Ltd. for this review.

For further information on the Jurassic Coast go to www.jurassiccoasttrust.org

