



## JERSEY SEASEARCH

January 2015

The Marine Biology section of the Société Jersiaise continues to provide a great deal of support for our group and an exhibition which includes photographs and other details of species

identified and recorded by the group is now on display in the Members Room of the Société Jersiaise.



The Marine Biology group usually meets on the first Monday of each month at the Société Jersiaise, in the Arthur Maurant room (on the top floor - stairs or lift) accessible via Pier Road at 7:30. During the meetings Jersey Seasearch projects are planned, discussed and reported on. A social meeting usually takes place afterwards at the Lamplighter in St Helier. New members to the section are welcome. Visiting Seasearch Divers are also welcome to attend.

**Reef Survey 2015** The 2014 expedition produced a number of important and significant recordings including the first sighting of the *Dendronis Limbata* in UK waters. The affects of dredging are still of great concern with damage occurring to Maerl, Pink sea fans and Dorothy Anemone. Data gathered so far has greatly help support dredging bans but the Ecrehous and Minquiers reefs are still unprotected with rakes actually going over the reef heads.



Dates for the next expedition have been provisionally set for Monday 22nd to Friday 26th of June. This is already in the planning stages with visits to the lesser known sites, north Ecrehous and further exploration of the Rigdon which revealed large colonies of white striped anemone and examples of the common starfish which is now rare in Jersey on the programme. 5 places of the 7 have already been taken.



**Maerl Survey 2014** We hope to continue the specialised investigation for Plymouth University in 2015 and need to gather more data from the Grande Noir area in order to complete the analysis. We already have significant evidence from the core samples of the effects of dredging on the types and quantities of worms present within the Maerl areas.

**Chris Wood** is also organising a special live aboard expedition from Weymouth looking at t areas such as north of Guernsey & around Alderney. This will hopefully produce more information about some of our rarer species and the affects of climate change on distribution. We will have at least one Jersey Seasearch representative on the expedition.

**Surveys&Reports** All the Jersey data for 2014 has been sent to Chris for processing. An Observers course is also planned and provisionally set for Saturday & Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Education Programme** Now we are able to run courses ourselves locally we are offering the course to the local colleges in modular form over several sessions so students can attend without disrupting other activities or commitments. .

**Annual Seasearch Coordinators meeting** will take place at the Natural History Museum, London on Saturday January 31st with a tour of the Natural History Museum and workshop on Sunday, February 1st.

The **Jersey Scuba Explorers Guide** is now available for purchase through Jersey Seasearch [jerseyseasearch@gmail.com](mailto:jerseyseasearch@gmail.com) or Amazon See the web page [www.jerseyseasearch.org/jmeg.html](http://www.jerseyseasearch.org/jmeg.html) for details.

All profits go towards the continuation of the Jersey Seasearch project.

**The Seashore Life of Jersey** is an excellent reference source for Seasearch divers, it is edited & produced by Paul Chambers is now on sale and available through the Société Jersiaise Bookshop & Amazon

