

Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust

research education conservation

28 Main Street
Tobermory
Isle of Mull
Argyll PA75 6NU

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 18th May 2011

Exciting new marine wildlife project launched by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) are pleased to announce their new 'Marine Biodiversity Awareness for All' project. A programme of events, including beach cleans and wildlife watches, will offer opportunities for local people within Argyll and Bute and Lochaber to learn more about the marine biodiversity of the west coast of Scotland in 2011. This project is generously supported by The Big Lottery Fund Community Wildlife programme with funds contributed by Scottish Natural Heritage.

HWDT have designed this project to encourage everyone to get out and about to enjoy the natural environment. Experienced and knowledgeable staff will run the events and help members of the public, of all ages and from all backgrounds, to learn about marine biodiversity in a fun and interactive way. HWDT's Education Officer Gemma Cave is looking forward to getting started on the project: 'This is a great opportunity for HWDT to engage with local people in Argyll and Bute and Lochaber and to teach them about what we are so passionate about. We hope that people will gain knowledge and learn new skills that will encourage them to enjoy the outdoors responsibly and contribute to the future conservation of our natural marine heritage.'

The grant from Big Lottery will be used to purchase essential equipment including beach cleaning supplies, binoculars for whale watches, interpretive displays and ID guides. HWDT also hope to use some of the grant to fund a trip for young people on board our research yacht *Silurian*, where they will assist with whale and dolphin research on board a working sailing yacht.

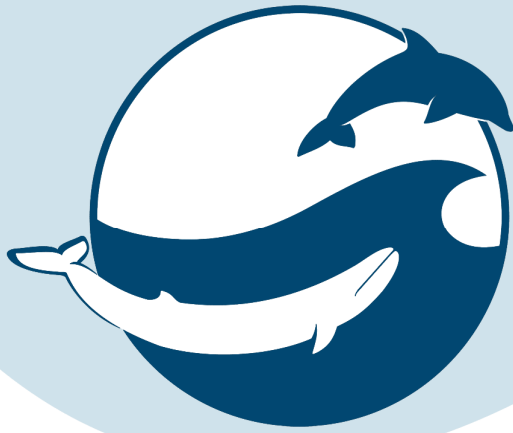
Details of events organised by HWDT for this project will be publicised on their website www.hwdt.org

ENDS

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust is dedicated to enhancing knowledge and understanding of Scotland's whales, dolphins and porpoises (cetaceans) and the Hebridean marine environment through education, research and working within Hebridean communities as a basis for the lasting conservation of local species and habitats. Specifically, HWDT: 1) conducts long-term monitoring of cetacean distribution, abundance and



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habitat use; 2) educates a wide range of people about the marine environment with a focus on cetaceans; 3) works within local communities to ensure long-term sustainability of the marine environment. HWDT also has a Visitor Centre and Shop in Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

The Big Lottery Fund distributes half of the National Lottery good cause funding across the UK. The Fund aims to enable others to make real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need.

Contact

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