

July 27th 2010

## THE DEEP LEADS FAMILY BEACHCOMB

Families are invited to join in with the first in a series of beachcombs led by The Deep. Claire Mitchell one of the attraction's guides, is preparing for the beachcomb at Cayton Bay on Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Claire Mitchell explains, "This is a great opportunity for families to enjoy a great, free afternoon out, exploring the shore whilst looking out for all kinds of wildlife. We can expect to find a whole wealth of beach life on our rockpool rambles and strandline safaris! We will also keep our eyes peeled for eggcases (sometimes known as Mermaids' Purses) – which indicate skate and ray breeding grounds. I'll be reporting back to the Shark Trust as eggcase updates are crucial to the nationwide research project – to which we've been contributing over the last 3 years. Once hatched, the empty skate and ray egg-cases wash up onto our beaches all year round and are an easily accessible source of information on the whereabouts of their nursery grounds. It also gives us an idea of their population numbers."

This event is set to be a fun filled day for the whole family with beach games, quizzes and more! Each child (aged 3-15) that takes part in a beachcomb will receive a Deep goodie bag.

- All activities start at **1pm** at Cayton Bay.
- Meet in the Surf Shop Car Park (Killerby Cliff, YO11 3NR)
- Please note there is a small charge for this car park.
- Please wear clothing appropriate for the weather for all beach activities. We recommend sturdy footwear or wellies. The Deep team will provide each volunteer with gloves and hand cleaner. Please note that events may be cancelled in bad weather.
- All children must be accompanied by an adult (16 years and over) at all times and that adult will have full responsibility for the child/children that they are accompanying.
- Look out for The Deep van and crew members in pale blue shirts.
- We look forward to seeing you on the day! So we can prepare goody bag and certificate suitable for your child, please let us know if you plan to join us. If you have any queries please contact us on email, [guides@thedeeep.co.uk](mailto:guides@thedeeep.co.uk) or if you have any questions tel: 01482 381046

### **Background Information**

Several species of skate and ray around the British coast have been diminishing over the last few decades. Sadly, skates and rays are now facing extinction as a result of overfishing. Under threat is one of our traditional fish and chip shop favourites - the skate, which is also a member of the shark family. The identification of these critical areas will enable the Shark Trust to propose conservation measures, in order to reverse the decline of these charismatic animals.

**Press information:** For further information, please contact Linda Martin 01482 381020 or mobile 07751 288434

**Further information:** [www.thedeeep.co.uk](http://www.thedeeep.co.uk)      [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)      [www.sharktrust.org](http://www.sharktrust.org)  
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