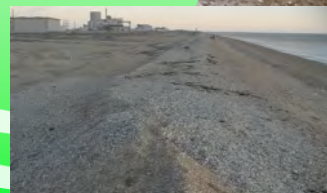
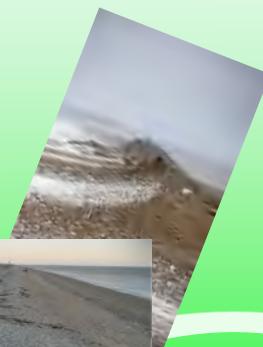




Defend Our Coast Association
www.defendourcoast.org.uk



Message from our Chairman

It seems hard to believe that yet another year has passed and we are about to hold our next AGM! Nomination papers will land on your doorstep soon and we would appreciate if all our members could complete and return these forms by the set deadline.

The success of DOC over the past year must be attributed to all the support we have received from our members and supporters, as well as to the sterling work and continued vigilance from the Committee Members. This, coupled with our joint passion to protect the Marsh, has achieved the success we have enjoyed over the past year in our numerous negotiations with various Government Agencies. But our work is ongoing and we will not rest until the last section of sea defence has been completed successfully. With a difficult political period ahead of us all and anticipated spending cuts in the offing, DOC needs to stay engaged and continue to assert its influence whenever and wherever possible to make certain we stay on track. Although DOC has flourished and grown substantially since its inauguration, there is always 'room for improvement' and we continue to pursue our quest for increased membership in order to fund our work and to have the desired impact.

We look forward seeing you all at the AGM.

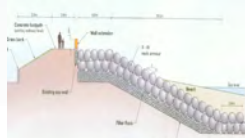
Terry Preston

Diary Dates:-

Our AGM is due to be held on 26 March 2010 (7.30-9.00 pm) at the Guild Hall, High Street, Lydd. Please make sure to put this date in your diary!

DOC Membership subscriptions are collected annually and will be due shortly. Thank you to all of our supporters who have given DOC the opportunity to continue with its work.

Environment Agency Updates



and a specialist Disability Access Consultant. We are applying for Arts Council funding for functional elements outside the core scheme design. This is likely to include items such as seating, signage and interpretation of the surrounding environment. If we are successful with the application, we will see input and advice from the local community."

The Environment Agency is still working on the consultation timetable for Broomhill Sands, but hopes to issue a newsletter in the very near future. In the meantime they have supplied DOC with the following comments:

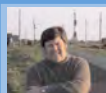
"We have been working on the outline scheme design and have had an internal review of draft plans. Following the review, we are fine tuning the design, looking at elements such as optimum rock grading and quantity. We are also considering various combinations of access steps and ramps, working on the information gathered at the workshops in May 2009, input from the operations team and a specialist Disability Access Consultant. We are applying for Arts Council funding for functional elements outside the core scheme design. This is likely to include items such as seating, signage and interpretation of the surrounding environment. If we are successful with the application, we will see input and advice from the local community."

(26.2.2010)

DOC has been busy

A hectic start to the New Year! DOC took part in a high level meeting with Senior Staff from Natural England in London mid-January (arranged through DOC's membership of NVCC) in order to try and reach a better understanding with regard to our sea defences and restrictions laid down in the European Habitats Directives. A very productive meeting with a follow-up meeting due to take place in April. As a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Coastal Issues DOC attended a meeting in Westminster at the end of January 2010 with the Chairman of the Environment Agency, Lord Smith, which produced some excellent results and clarified many issues. He fully supports the work DOC carries out on behalf of the local coastal communities and endorses our close working relationship with Government Agencies in order to achieve the desired results. Encouraging words indeed! A further meeting took place in February with the regional staff of Natural England, organized through Protect Kent of which DOC is a member, and the discussions centered around local issues on the proposed sea defences. DOC intends to lobby all Prospective Parliamentary Candidates during March 2010 prior to the forthcoming elections to make sure we don't lose the momentum. As we regularly update our website following important events, please make sure you catch up on all the news!

Brigitte Bass/PR-Media



Our Technical Officer, Tony Hills, reports:-

As the EA budget year runs to April 2010 (and is running out), we are all waiting to see what schemes will get the go-ahead for next year. Outside the good work achieved at Dymchurch, we are 'up in the air' on so many other elements of our sea defence schemes. The EA has informed DOC that urgent work needs to be addressed at 'The Redoubt', Hythe and at Littlestone the long awaited defence improvements are not guaranteed and depend on next year's budget! Still no news from KCC on the planning decision to allow the EA and the Power Station to recycle the shingle from the 'point' at Dungeness to Jury's Gap and Dengemarsh is still being overtopped, despite the 2000 sqm of shingle placed there in December 09 to 'plug the hole'. Galloways continues to erode at a pace and at the Lydd Ranges the limited work done over Christmas consisted as usual of just of scraping up grit and sand from low water to form a 'soft' crest - adding little strength as a sea defence, but better than nothing I presume. Conversations with the EA Project Manager of the new Broomhill defence scheme seem to indicate that the scheme is proceeding on schedule and we are looking forward seeing the EA's latest designs. An overall rather negative report from me this time around, but I would like to see more forward movement and worry about potential budget cuts and delays. Any delay to implement sea defence improvements represents potentially far reaching problems for the Marsh.... "A sea defence delayed is a sea defence denied"!

Tony Hills/DOC