

March 3rd 2004

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK AT THE DEEP

The Deep, Hull's £45.5m Millennium Commission lottery project is hosting a series of special Deep Science talks by the staff as part of National Science Week. Visitors to The Deep on the 14th, 20th and 21st March are in for a treat!

The Deep has a good track record for keeping its inhabitants healthy and members of the Deep team will be giving an insight into the work that goes on behind the scenes to maintain the displays.

Deep Science Officer Graham Hill explains,

"Many of our visitors are fascinated with how we care for all our marine animals. The day to day work involves all kinds activities ranging from veterinary science to plumbing. For instance we carry out regular checks on the water quality of our tanks, and closely monitor all the animals so we can act quickly upon the first signs of any problems. We work closely with our vet who helps us to prepare specific diets for the various species - even sharks have to watch their figures! We're often asked how each type of shark recognises when it's their turn to be fed by the divers in the tank - and we'll be explaining how we do it.

Highly valued at The Deep is our work in the areas of research, fish breeding and coral propagation. We work with conservation organisations to help to discover more about certain species - for example we're working with the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) on the research and conservation of *Lophelia* coral. New understanding and awareness of rare and endangered species helps with conservation of marine life in our oceans"

The illustrated Deep Science talks will each be 20 minutes long, repeated throughout each day and will take place on March 14th, 20th and 21st in The Deep visitor attraction. Entrance to the talks are free once The Deep admission fee has been paid.

Additional Information

High Tide a photographic exhibition by Simon Warner comparing North Sea coastlines is on show March 1-31, including National Science Week March 12 - 21

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