



Macduff Marine Aquarium has an exciting new learning programme!

We are pleased to offer a brand-new workshop; **Climate Change and Our Ocean**. This interactive programme explores climate change, how it affects the ocean and what we can all do to help combat the climate crisis. As with all our learning programmes, **Climate Change and Our Ocean** includes a themed guided tour of the aquarium and an interactive touchpool session all facilitated by a dedicated Marine Master. This programme is suitable for First, Second and Third levels. For more information and to access the complete list of available learning programming see: [www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk/learn/learning-programmes](http://www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk/learn/learning-programmes).

We know that travel costs are mightily high so if field-trips are not an option at the moment, why not bring the aquarium into your classroom?

We are offering Virtual School Visits that allow your class to see the aquarium in a new way. Schedule a Virtual Tour, a Virtual Touchpool session or a Q&A session with a Marine Master. We offer a free trials session to work out any bugs with your technology and can use your preferred platform. The virtual session last around 45 minutes and costs just £40 with no limit on the number of participants.



Don't forget to keep up to date with all our news and upcoming events on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

If you would like to find out more about any of our learning programmes, to book a session or just have a chat about how the aquarium can support learning in your class please email our Learning Officer, Marie Dare at: [marie.dare@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:marie.dare@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

The aquarium offers discounted rates for learning groups of 10 or more pupils and free teacher familiarisation visits to help you plan your class trip. There are also loads of freely available resources, including short films, stories, colouring sheets and experiments on our website.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**We are really pleased to offer our Saturday Kids' Club again this year.**

We started the Macduff School for the Sea in 2022 as a pilot project; only available to small number of schools within close proximity to the aquarium. This year we are happy to extend the offer so that more kids aged 9 - 12 can get involved.

The club will meet approximately once a month from March to November and will run from 9:15-10:45 am. The participants get hands on with many aspects of the aquarium; including behind the scenes tours, tank cleaning, fish feeding and lots activities with environmental and marine themes. We also involve the children with citizen science and collect data for several projects such as the Sharks Trust Great Eggcase Hunt and the Big Seaweed Search organised by the Marine Conservation Society. This allows them to record and report their observations knowing that they are contributing to a national database that helps to inform us about marine populations.

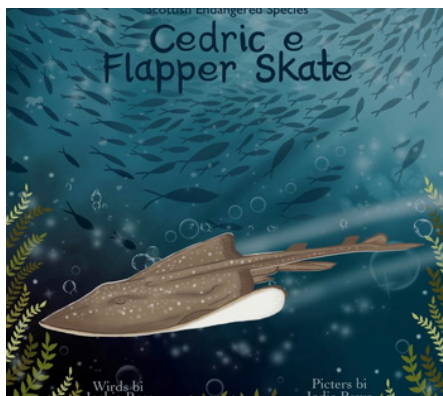
If you know any children who would be keen to join our Kids' Club please point them to: <https://www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk/learn/macduff-sea-club> for more information and to register.

## FISH BYTES

The aquarium website is worth a visit if you have not checked it out recently. We have loads of great video content, and fun downloads that range from experiments to try in class, to games and colouring in sheets. Of course, we also have resources that can be used to support learning before or after your aquarium visit.

Our top website pick for this edition of the newsletter is our [Catch My Drift series](#). These are a series of short films on various wildlife topics, presented by local enthusiasts and experts from our own aquarium team and the wider scientific community. Have a watch and listen to explore a wide range of topics from the eggcases of native sharks and skates to the sea bird city at Troup Head.

These short films are around 10 minutes each and provide an interesting introduction to the topic being covered. They would make a great addition to a marine or environmental unit as they are each about native species and have a local focus.



We also have a fantastic film: 'A Look at Marine Plastics'; featuring ocean advocate, skipper and international public speaker, Emily Penn. This film examines the problem of plastics in our ocean and what we can do about it.

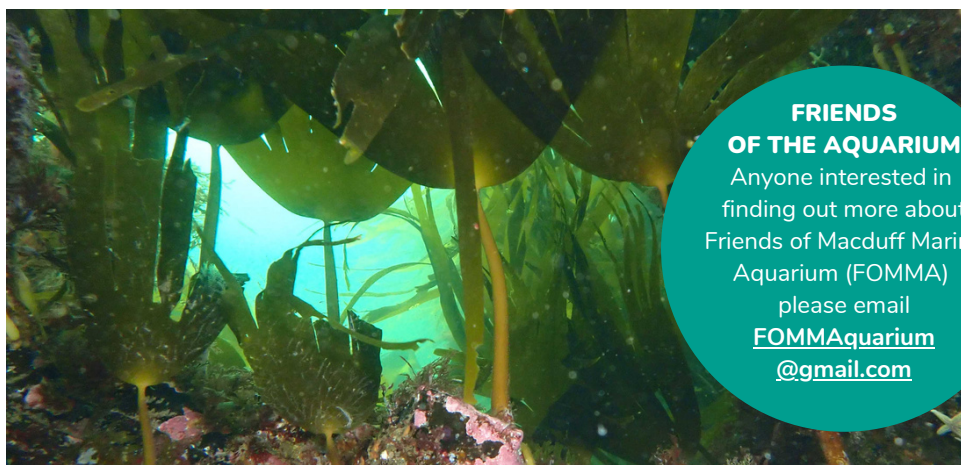
Our last film to showcase is our newest addition, a digital version of the Doric story: 'Cedric e Flapper Skate' the true story of the flapper skate that came to live at the aquarium. This story ties together our culture, language and conservation education.

There are full transcripts available to aid with learning and accessibility.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR OCEANS

With climate change becoming ever more evident in our daily lives, in 2023 we will be working to raise awareness of blue carbon. Blue carbon refers to carbon that is trapped in marine ecosystems by algae and marine plants. A recent focus on blue carbon research shows how valuable these habitats are in terms of the quantity of carbon that is drawn down from the atmosphere and how much carbon can be locked away in sediments if left undisturbed.

Marine habitats such as mangrove, saltmarshes and sea grass beds are relatively small in area across the globe, but they can absorb carbon two to four times faster than forests on land! This shows the importance of protecting and restoring these crucial coastal habitats. Other marine habitats, such as kelp forests, oyster and maerl beds also have huge potential to trap and store atmospheric carbon and so are vital assets in the fight against climate change. Look out for exciting talks and activities around blue carbon at the aquarium for 2023!



### FRIENDS OF THE AQUARIUM

Anyone interested in finding out more about Friends of Macduff Marine Aquarium (FOMMA) please email [FOMMAaquarium@gmail.com](mailto:FOMMAaquarium@gmail.com)

## EVENTS

Here's an overview of what's coming up here at the aquarium but keep an eye out on our website and social media for details of all our events.

### CWNE23: Discover Blue Carbon 25th and 26th March

A Climate Week Northeast 23 event, come hear how important marine habitats are in the fight against climate change.

### Baby Shark and Skates Daily 1st - 16th April

Join us this Easter Holidays to celebrate baby sharks and skates, and discover their fascinating life cycle

### Dive In! 17th and 18th June

Come dive in and explore our coasts safely this Drowning Prevention Week.



### Winter Hours

Saturday - Wednesday  
11:00-16:00  
Thursday & Friday  
Closed

Please check on the website for further information and news.

<http://www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk>

Remember you can also find us on Facebook, Instagram & Tiktok



### Looking for Gift Ideas?

Why not buy gift tickets for entry, or vouchers to sponsor a fish for your favourite aquarium enthusiast.

For more information see our website

<http://www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk/get-involved/aquarium-experiences>

