

European Geoparks Week 2008  
Report

Name of Geopark: **English Riviera Geopark.....**

Dates of geoparks week: **24 May to 1 June 2008...**

Contact person: **Mel Border English Riviera Geopark  
Coordinator ..**

1. Please give the following information:

- number of activities/events held in geoparks week .....**28**.....
- number of press releases announcing geoparks week events  
.....**1 article plus events listed in Whats On column and events  
published on local radio station Palm FM....**
- number of printed copies for program flyer/brochure/posters .....**500  
fliers plus events details on 3 websites, events listed in TCCT events  
brochure.....**
- total number of visitors/participants .....**1478**.....

2. Describe the Geoparks Week 2008:

The English Riviera Geoparks first Geopark Week

During preparations for the week enthusiasm from Geopark partners and the local community snowballed to create a fantastic week packed with a wide range of events in which approximately 1500 people participated. The following provides just a snap shot of a few of the events...

Reaching out across the globe, GB6GEO, was undeniably the highlight of the week when over 900 people attended the Flint and Fire day at Kents Cavern show caves on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Outside the entrance to the caverns, visitors joined the amateur radio team broadcasting greetings from the English Riviera Geopark using the special event call sign GB6GEO. The Geopark radio station stayed on air through the night, making contact with colleagues in other Global Geoparks and with amateur radio enthusiasts as far away as Tasmania, Siberia and Brazil. The Geopark Radio Day will be back "on air" at the beginning of European Geoparks Week 2009 on 23/24<sup>th</sup> May 2009 when many more Geo-sites around the world will be joining in this global communication event. For information on participating contact [nickpowe@kents-cavern.co.uk](mailto:nickpowe@kents-cavern.co.uk)

At Torquay Museum, Geopark Week was a great success too with the Museum putting on a lecture and workshops for children. "Torbay's Coastline, Its Geology and Its People" took the form of an armchair tour of our historic coastline with some beautiful views accompanied by the story of the rocks and the people who lived on and around them. Workshops with a geology theme were also presented. In Fossil Giants children were shown a variety of fossils and had an opportunity to

reconstruct their own from clay. Whilst pebble painting was aimed at younger children where they first learned a little about pebbles and then they decorated a stone. Finally Crystals Rock was all about minerals. The children were shown a varied selection of minerals from the museum's collections and then spent time making a model of an underground cave using paper cardboard and paints.

Desert Landscapes was the title of a walk led by an expert local historian. Originally planned for the event to last three hours however the depth of interest from the participants was such that, on request John extended the walk to last four and a half hours!

Most encouraging was the interest and enthusiasm of the arts community. Having been inspired by the call for artists for the Psiloritis art exhibition a local artist volunteered her time and expertise to organise both a Geopark Week poetry event and an art exhibition. Drawing together the work of 6 local artists inspired by the geopark landscape, both 2D and 3D work was displayed at Cockington Court, a 16th century manor house within the heart of the Geopark. The Poets Friday event provided an opportunity both to enjoy a traditional Devonshire Cream Tea and to listen to readings by three local poets.

Overall the response from the local community and visitors was very strong and we intend to go bigger and better next year.

### 3. Photos:

