

# World Wetland Day 2.2.2013

Pictures and notes by Karin Dubsky and Maria D. Lopez Rodriguez



## Sandymount Strand, South Dublin Bay Ramsar Site

A shiny bright world wetland day saw families and Coastwatchers gathered at low tide exploring the seashore between the Martello Tower and the old sea bath on Sandymount beach. Karin Dubsky, Ramsar Non-government focal point explained: Dublin Bay is full of marine life, even when the tide is out and the sand flats look empty apart from the birds. Some organisms live in water and go in and out with the tide, others are attached to rocks. But the largest numbers in this bay are hidden in the sand and mud. Dave Tilly co fieldtrip leader dug out a lugworm. The marine worm lives in a U shaped burrow in the mud, with a hole marking one end and a curled sand sausage the other one end of the burrow. Lug worms stick their tail out of the mud to create the sand sausage and that is the moment flatfish can grab it.



Participants found shallow pools left by plaice which come in with the tide, wriggle themselves into the sand and wait hidden for a feed of lugworm tails.

At the Old sea bath which is like a wetland within a wetland, scouring has left shallow pools and a few rocks where mussels ( in pic below left) are attached by their 'beards' and amazing little green balloons are floating but tied onto rocks by a string. These are the egg sacks of the rag worm. If you take a very close look, tiny worms can be seen inside.



Collecting shells – empty go into buckets and full are just observed and put back.



After handing our NPWS sponsored bags, participants were invited to three challenges:

1. Collect as many different species of seashells as possible in 30 minutes and lay them out.





very precise!



## 2 Collect different size shells



## 3. Make a shell mosaic







Examples of shell mosaics caught on camera. Creators have to wait 24 hours for plaster to harden.



The funny thing is – this shore is designated as a bathing beach. The sign could be useful to show Eamsar and Natura 2000 designations.



As the tide came in, the outing ended.