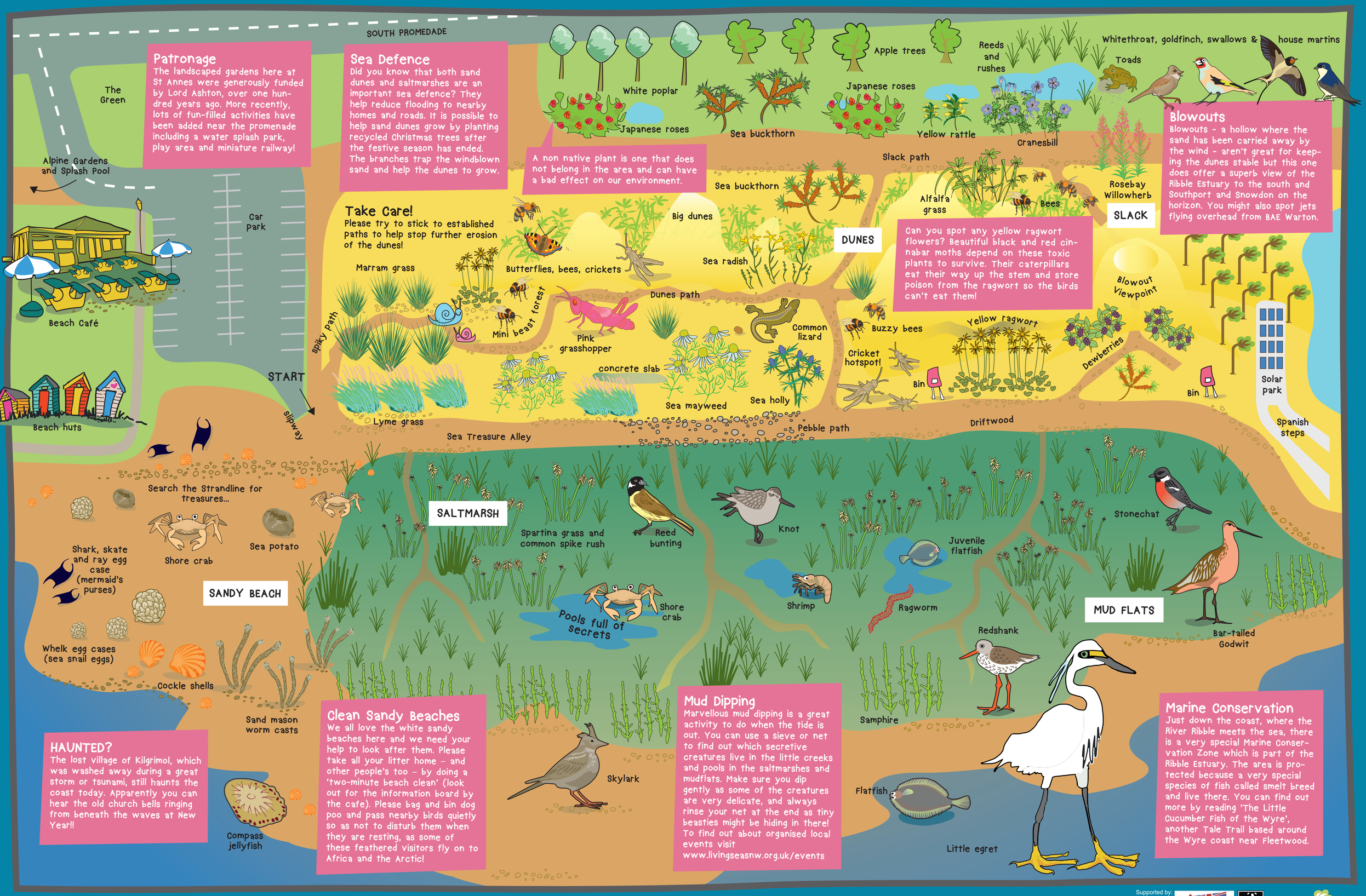
THE LITTLE EGRET OF ST ANNES



Patronage

The landscaped gardens here at St Annes were generously funded by Lord Ashton, over one hundred years ago. More recently, lots of fun-filled activities have been added near the promenade including a water splash park, play area and miniature railway!

Sea Defence

Did you know that both sand dunes and saltmarshes are an important sea defence? They help reduce flooding to nearby homes and roads. It is possible to help sand dunes grow by planting recycled Christmas trees after the festive season has ended. The branches trap the windblown sand and help the dunes to grow.

A non native plant is one that does not belong in the area and can have a bad effect on our environment.

Take Care!

Please try to stick to established paths to help stop further erosion of the dunes!

Can you spot any yellow ragwort flowers? Beautiful black and red cinnabar moths depend on these toxic plants to survive. Their caterpillars eat their way up the stem and store poison from the ragwort so the birds can't eat them!

Blowouts

Blowouts - a hollow where the sand has been carried away by the wind - aren't great for keeping the dunes stable but this one does offer a superb view of the Ribble Estuary to the south and Southport and Snowdon on the horizon. You might also spot jets flying overhead from BAE Warton.

HAUNTED?

The lost village of Kilgrimol, which was washed away during a great storm or tsunami, still haunts the coast today. Apparently you can hear the old church bells ringing from beneath the waves at New Year!!

Clean Sandy Beaches

We all love the white sandy beaches here and we need your help to look after them. Please take all your litter home – and other people's too – by doing a 'two-minute beach clean' (look out for the information board by the cafe). Please bag and bin dog poo and pass nearby birds quietly so as not to disturb them when they are resting, as some of these feathered visitors fly on to Africa and the Arctic!

Mud Dipping

Marvellous mud dipping is a great activity to do when the tide is out. You can use a sieve or net to find out which secretive creatures live in the little creeks and pools in the saltmarshes and mudflats. Make sure you dip gently as some of the creatures are very delicate, and always rinse your net at the end as tiny beasties might be hiding in there! To find out about organised local events visit www.livingseasnw.org.uk/events

Marine Conservation

Just down the coast, where the River Ribble meets the sea, there is a very special Marine Conservation Zone which is part of the Ribble Estuary. The area is protected because a very special species of fish called smelt breed and live there. You can find out more by reading 'The Little Cucumber Fish of the Wyre', another Tale Trail based around the Wyre coast near Fleetwood.

Disclaimer Tale trails are intended as a guide only. Whilst care has been taken to include routes that are on rights of way, paths or access areas where permission exists, inclusion of a route is no evidence of a current right of way or permissive access. Be aware of fast moving tides and sinking sand. Please avoid walking on the sensitive mud flats and salt marshes. Please follow the countryside code and leave only footprints.

Discover more at **www.taletrails.co.uk**
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