

# Flotsam and Jetsam

December 2014

Welcome to the Argyll and Bute Beach Forum quarterly e-bulletin. The Argyll and Bute Beach Forum is a project run by the GRAB Trust. Our main aim is to raise awareness of the impacts caused by marine litter and to support and encourage communities to take action by cleaning their local beaches.

The bulletin is also available by post and on our website. Your contributions are always welcome. Tell us what you would like to see in the bulletin, it is your bulletin!

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## 1. THE ARGYLL AND BUTE BEACH FORUM

### Beaches & Marine Litter Education Day, Inveraray



A pupil decorates a plastic bottle as part of the workshop "Message in a bottle" ©A Nebreda

The last Marine Litter Educational Day of 2014 took place in November at Inveraray.

The event was well attended by around 50 pupils, P4 to P7, from local primary schools: Inveraray, Furnace and Minard. Seven fantastic workshop providers including Terry Donovan, the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Kilmartin Museum, The Marine Conservation Society, GRAB Trust, the Scottish Anglers Society and the local artist Alison McAlpine made sure children had a great experience on the day. Pupils had a chance to be a beach detective, to take part in a "beach dig", to make art and also to learn about marine litter and pollution, sea turtles and sharks.

The next education day will be held in Dunoon, in February, date tbc. If anyone out there would like to join us to provide a workshop, feel free to contact Cat Newsheller at [cat.newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:cat.newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk), T: 01631 567965.

## 2. YOUR SHOUT

### News from Beachwatch Bute

Follow Sandra MacMillan's work on <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Beachwatch-Bute>

### News from Re-Jig, Islay, by Ina Glovers

We have litter grants for local organisations that carry out beach cleans on Islay and Jura. Contact Re-Jig [info@rejig.co.uk](mailto:info@rejig.co.uk) T: 01496 810880

For more information on the work carried out by Re-JIG visit <http://rejigco.wix.com/re-jigco>



### 3.FLOTSAM AND JETSAM FEATURES -----

#### Mixed year for Scotland's seabirds



Oystercatcher eggs on Arran  
©ANebreda

Scottish Natural Heritage latest report on seabirds suggests that 2014 has been a relatively good year in places for some species, whilst serious declines continue for others. Food shortages, bad weather and predation have led to a decline in the number of many seabirds. The good news is that fulmars on the Isle of May had the most successful breeding season in record. To read the full story visit <http://snh.presscentre.com/News-Releases/New-report-shows-encouraging-signs-for-seabirds-in-Scotland>

If you would like to receive SNH magazine online, email [editor@snh.gov.uk](mailto:editor@snh.gov.uk) to subscribe.

#### Microplastics research in the Firth of Clyde

Dr Brian Quinn, a lecturer in Ecotoxicology working at the Institute of Biomedical and Environmental Health Research, University of the West of Scotland, is investigating microplastics in the environment. The team has chosen the Firth of Clyde as their test site and are collecting samples along both the north and south shore of the Firth, including along the Argyll coast to assess the level of contamination. Results from this research will be available next year. For more information on the Research Institute visit <http://www.uws.ac.uk/research/research-institutes/science/ibehr/>



#### The Scottish carrier bag charge, October 2014

The Scottish government has introduced a carrier bag charge this year, following the steps of Wales and Northern Ireland. Marine Conservation Society believes this is a major step forward to reduce the problem they cause to marine life. Sea turtles and other animals mistake them for their favourite food, jellyfish.

Tesco is donating the money raised by this charge to Keep Scotland Beautiful. See below for more information on how to apply for KSB grants.



Plastic bag on a beach ©A Nebreda

### 4.FUNDING -----

#### Keep Scotland Beautiful Community Grants Scheme

KSB is using proceeds from the single use carrier bag charge collected by Tesco to provide £250 grants to local groups to improve their local environment. Local neighbourhood groups, volunteer groups and not for profit organisations including schools will be eligible. For more information and to apply now visit: <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/community-grants-scheme/>

#### The GRAB Trust Litter Grants



Marine litter ©A Nebreda

We can give small grants to groups that carry out a village or beach clean in the area of Argyll and Bute Local Authority. You need to inform one of our key contacts prior to carrying out the clean up and fill in the [application form](#) in order for the money to be processed. We can also lend you cleaning equipment (litter pickers and bags), help you carry out a risk assessment and organise collection of the litter. Please get in touch with the project worker in your area for more information or visit our website. You can download the litter grant form from: <http://grab.org.uk/pubs/beaches/Application>

## 5. RESOURCES -----

For a list of useful resources and publications please see our Beaches pages on our website [www.grab.org.uk](http://www.grab.org.uk)

### GRAB Project Workers –

Aisa Nebreda – Mid Argyll, Kintyre, Islay and Jura <a href="mailto:aisa.nebreda@argyll-bute.gov.uk">aisa.nebreda@argyll-bute.gov.uk</a>	Tel: 01546 604226
Cat Newsheller– Oban, Lorn and the Isles <a href="mailto:cat.newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk">cat.newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk</a>	Tel: 01631 567965
Julie Fairbrass – Cowal, Bute <a href="mailto:julie.fairbrassr@argyll-bute.gov.uk">julie.fairbrassr@argyll-bute.gov.uk</a>	Tel: 01631 569174
<b>Beachwatch Bute Beach Ranger -</b> Sandra MacMillan—Bute	Tel: 07767795969
<b>Re-Jig, Islay Beach Project -</b> Ina Glover <a href="mailto:re-jig@btconnect.com">re-jig@btconnect.com</a>	Tel: 01496 810880

### Disclaimer

Thanks for reading. Please note that all views expressed are not necessarily the views of the GRAB Trust or the Argyll and Bute Beach Forum. We hope that you have enjoyed our e-bulletin. We would like to hear from you and would appreciate any comments you may have about it.

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**The Argyll and Bute Beach Forum, The GRAB Trust**  
**C/o Argyll and Bute Council**  
**Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT**  
**Web: [www.grab.org.uk](http://www.grab.org.uk) E-mail: [aisa.nebreda@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:aisa.nebreda@argyll-bute.gov.uk) Tel: 01546 604226**

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