

Flotsam and Jetsam

June 2015

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 (as part of our Beaches and Marine Litter Project). Our main aim is to raise awareness of the impacts of and reduce beach and marine litter and to support communities to take action by cleaning beaches.

We hope you will find our e-bulletin interesting. The bulletin is also available by post and on our website. Your contributions are always welcome. We want to make this bulletin as useful as possible. Tell us what you would like to see in the bulletin, it is your bulletin!



Beach Cleans

This year The GRAB Trust has facilitated many beach cleans throughout Argyll & Bute. These have been carried out by local groups who are trying very hard to keep their local beach litter-free. These are a selection of photos capturing our hardy volunteers!



The charity for Scotland's environment, Keep Scotland Beautiful, has announced the 2015 winners of the Scottish Seaside Awards - rewarding the efforts of beach managers and communities Scotland-wide in maintaining high standards. Once again Machrihanish and Ganavan in Argyll have received an award.

Sixty beaches in Scotland have been recognised in the 2015 awards for their excellent safety and environmental management procedures and good water quality. The Seaside Awards are designed to recognise the rounded visitor experience, from parking to water quality, from toilet provision to cleanliness of the beach itself. As a result, beaches from Shetland to the Scottish Borders will be flying the Seaside Award flag this season.

A map showing all the award-winning beaches with directions, facilities and pictures can be found at www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/beachawards.

Dalintober Primary Workshop

GRAB's Project Manager, Julie Fairbrass, held a timeline workshop with pupils from Dalintober Primary School in Campbeltown at the end of May. It was a great day and the children were really responsive and engaged. Here the children are participating in our time-line workshop showing how long litter lasts in the environment.



NURDLE FREE OCEANS

Reducing Plastic Pollution in our Seas

What are Nurdles?

Nurdles are small plastic pellets about the size of a lentil. Countless billion are used each year to make nearly all our plastic products but many end up washing up on our shores.

How do they end up at sea?

Spills take place when nurdles are handled or transported. This can happen at any step from the manufacturer through the distribution network to the plastic goods producer. When uncontained nurdles can find their way into our storm drains and are carried straight out to sea. In the sea they disperse quickly and widely and as a result can be found throughout the world. Some companies have taken steps to improve the waste management, screening techniques, transportation and handling of nurdles. Many others, mostly unwittingly, continue to pollute our marine environment with nurdles.



For more information contact www.nurdlehunt.org.uk

Isle Of Colonsay Update

This is the third year that Colonsay is aiming to make the island 98% litter free. It is a mammoth task and the hard working local volunteers along with any enthusiastic visitors have already embarked on the project clearing the entire coastline and also the roadsides since Easter. We are now about half way around the island and at least there is not as much litter as there was the first time around.



A big help this time is the extra equipment the island has been able to purchase thanks to the GRAB fund. The school are planning a litter pick soon and will be grateful for the HV vests and small size gloves.

On the subject of beach litter I decided to try and start a campaign aimed at the wastefulness and environmental impact of buying bottled water. This was inspired by the very large quantities of plastic bottles that are daily washed up on our shores (very few are dropped by visitors) and the tiresome task of picking them up. So I have instigated a small leaflet entitled 'Drink Tap Water not Bottled' which highlights the issues surrounding the manufacture, littering and the long term effect of the microplastic particles which are left when the bottles break down, upon the coastal and sea environment and ultimately humans when it enters the food chain. Starting on the island these leaflets are now in public places but I am planning to take them further afield. The Houses of Parliament, I gather from an MP, use bottled water! Perhaps that is a good place to take the campaign.

If anyone would like some leaflets please let me know and I will send a batch.
janerose.beachlitter@gmail.com

Jane Rose—beachlitter artist and MCS Sea Champion.

Great British Beach Clean 2015

Calling all beach lovers - Your beach needs you!



We are aiming to make this year's Great British Beach Clean the biggest ever and we would love to invite you to join in!

Beachwatch is the Marine Conservation Society's national beach cleaning and litter surveying programme - helping people all around the UK to care for their coastline with the Great British Beach Clean being the flagship event.

Throughout Scotland and the rest of the UK there will be events going on over the weekend of the 18th-21st September and we hope to see you at one of them!

Whether you want to become a Beachwatch Organizer for your local beach or just come along to one of our registered events we can help you make it the most educational and fun day out at the beach in your calendar!

For more information and to sign up please go to www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch

Contact: Catherine Gemmell catherine.gemmell@mcsuk.org



Volunteers at Cramond Beach helping turn the tide on marine litter!

Beach School in Argyll: Swapping walls for sand, pebbles and the sea breeze

The GRAB Trust's latest project—Beach Schools—is using Argyll's amazing coastal resource to provide outdoor learning opportunities for primary school pupils in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, mid-Argyll and Kintyre. Based upon and using the Forest School ethos, participants visit their local beach site each week learning life-skills and about themselves and others as well as their environment. Health and well-being benefits abound with outdoor safety, appropriate risk taking, social responsibility, empathy, team-work and facilitation of confidence and good self-esteem being core to the sessions.



As well as the obvious science areas of the curriculum, literacy and numeracy are also covered within task-related activities including marine litter surveys and beach clean-ups, creature searches (including a trawl of the shallows—thanks to Jane and Jo), beach art, shelter-building and fire-lighting as well as environmental games helping to explain concepts and cement learning. During each session which brings education through action, fun and child-led learning, pupils build upon their Beach School experiences and by exploring their local beach regularly they gain a wider understanding of and respect for marine ecosystems. Furthermore, with focussing on

ecological processes and threats to marine habitats, plants and animals, e.g. pollution and over exploitation of natural resources, they also learn that conservation and protection of our seas and oceans are vital and that young people do have the power to affect attitudinal change.

Previously working with Clachan and Skipness Primary Schools, this term children from Achaleven and Lochnell Primaries visited Dunstaffnage, Tralee and Little Ganavan beaches enjoying their time exploring, playing and learning despite the unusual summer weather! The project is set to continue for the 2015/2016 terms and we also hope to be able to deliver Beach School to pupils in Cowal soon.

The GRAB Trust would like to thank EB Scotland and Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Fund for financial assistance and Janie Steele, Beach and Marine Litter Project Officer, who has delivered the sessions. Janie would further like to acknowledge her partners and colleagues in marine research, conservation and education including *SNH, MCS, SAMS, HWDT and SMASS. *Scottish Natural Heritage; The Marine Conservation Society; The Scottish Association for Marine Science; The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and The Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme.



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Please send articles for the Flotsam & Jetsam bulletin to Jean Kennedy.

All Project Workers are part-time so please note that they are not always available to answer all queries in regard to beaches & marine litter issues.

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List of acronyms used in the bulletin:

KSB: Keep Scotland Beautiful

SAMS: Scottish Association for Marine Science

HWDT: Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

SNH: Scottish Natural Heritage

FoCF: Firth of Clyde Forum

MCS: Marine Conservation Society

SEPA: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

TEAR: Tیره Environmental Action and Recycling

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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