

## Flotsam and Jetsam

**September 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!



**Scottish Natural Heritage**

All of nature for all of Scotland

Following the designation of the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA for Common Skate last year Scottish Natural Heritage are looking for information about common skate egg cases in Argyll from



beachcombers, divers and fishermen. We hope the information will help solve the mystery of where common skate lay their eggs in the area. Common skate are the largest elasmobranch egg cases you are likely to find in Scotland – and the rarest. They are about the size of an A4 sheet of paper - roughly 30cm long and 15cm across - with short slightly curved “horns” at the corners. Divers might spot green, leathery eggs with the fish still inside in rocky areas from 10 to 30m. Beachcombers may find empty egg cases in the shallow water on the beach in which case they will be flat and black. However they are more common amongst the seaweed in the strandline where they dry and shrink, crinkling up and developing a coating of brown, papery, bark-like material. Join



developing a coating of brown, papery, bark-like material. Join The Shark Trust Great Eggcase Hunt at <http://www.eggcase.org> to help you identify any egg cases you find. Remove any empty skate egg cases from the beach and email us at [skate@snh.gov.uk](mailto:skate@snh.gov.uk) with the location and date you found them. If you can, attach a photo of the egg case with a ruler or a 2 pence piece for scale.



# The GRAB Trust

GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE

Ganavan is one of our two Seaside Award beaches and on Saturday 29 August a beach clean was carried out by Spartak football club. Despite it being a very wet day, we had a great turn-out. Approximately 10 bags of rubbish and a load of old pipes were collected. We would like to say a big thank you to all who took part.



## GRAB Contacts –

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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

HWDT: Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

FoCF: Firth of Clyde Forum

SEPA: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

SAMS: Scottish Association for Marine Science

SNH: Scottish Natural Heritage

MCS: Marine Conservation Society

TEAR: Tiree 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.

**The Argyll and Bute Beach Forum  
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