

Flotsam and Jetsam

December 2012

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!

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1. THE ARGYLL AND BUTE BEACH FORUM -----



Argyll and Bute Beach Forum Education Events



ABBF has recently held 2 education events in Tarbert on 18th September and in Dunoon on October 30th. A host of organisations worked in partnership to bring together an amazing 2 days of stimulating and thought provoking workshops to over 200 children & adults. The GRAB Trust's Beaches and Marine Litter project ran 3 different workshops covering the impacts of plastic & litter in the marine environment. Ecological & Biodiversity workshops were run by SNH, the HWDT, the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network & Argyll & Bute Council covering a wide range of species from sharks to machair bumble bees. Plenty of hands-on activities were also on offer, including a rocky

shore touch pool, creating bird artwork from waste kevlar rope & making squid wind socks from recycled materials. Feedback on the event from teachers & pupils alike was excellent, along with lots of requests to return again soon! These ABBF schools outreach events are funded by The Crown Estate and if you would like us to provide one in your area please contact caroline.askew@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

2. YOUR SHOUT -----

News from Re-Jig, Islay

Sadly Polly Mather has left ReJig. Polly did a great job on the island and she will be missed. We wish Polly all the best. Pictured on the right Polly at a recent Agricultural Show on Islay.

News from Beachwatch Bute

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

3.FLOTSAM AND JETSAM FEATURES -----



MCS annual Beachwatch Weekend, 15th & 16th September

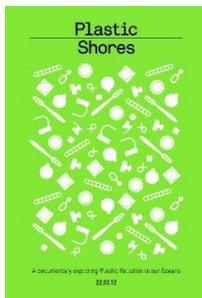
The marine litter surveys carried out this weekend help MCS to produce an annual summary report on the litter found on our beaches.



Park Primary School (on the left) cleans and surveys a stretch of Oban's Esplanade shoreline 4 times a year as part of their Eco-School's work under the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch programme. The latest clean-up resulted in 565 bits of litter being removed from the beach. The top 5 categories of litter were glass, plastic, polystyrene, paper and metal pieces. Two huge slabs of polystyrene were also uplifted.

For more information on adopting a beach visit www.mcsuk.org.what_we_do

Plastic shores movie



This is a short documentary directed by Ed Scott-Clarke and produced by La Mode Verte, a charity that raises awareness on marine pollution using media. It uses stop motion animation and real footage to explain how the ingestion of small pieces of plastic litter by sea wildlife has an effect on humans through the food chain. Beautiful to watch, very short and straight to the point.

You can watch it on www.plastichsoresmovie.com

Seabirds of plastic paradise

Dunoon based artist, Sandi Kiehlmann, gets inspiration from the sea and has created these beautiful sculptural birds from recycled beach finds. She uses materials such as rope, fishing net, fishing floats, discarded plastic and other items found on the beaches of Cowal Peninsula to produce artwork.



For more information and to see more of her work visit her website Rosehill studio at:

<http://www.spanglefish.com/rosehillstudioargyll/>

£6000 awarded to tackle flytipping in Clochkeil Dunes, Kintyre

The one-off agricultural waste includes asbestos corrugated roofing is located on Machrihanish SSSI dunes. The SSSI is the largest sand dune system in mainland Argyll and contains a diverse flora, including the only site in Kintyre for pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*. The work to remove the waste will be carried out by the local contractor McFadyens in December.

The funding has been awarded from the £75,000 Flytipping Small Grants Scheme, which is administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful on behalf of Zero Waste Scotland, with support from the Scottish Flytipping Forum.



Coastal Litter Management Guidelines for Duty Bodies

The Firth of Clyde Forum has recently produced the Guidelines and are available on their website www.clydeforum.com under 'Projects', 'Marine Litter'. The document will be useful in tackling the issue of marine litter and in developing a Coastal Litter Management Plans.

One woman and her jar: Monitoring the water environment in Argyll

The wind sweeps across the beach. A seagull circles overhead. Just beyond the breaking waves, a woman stands alone, with a jar on the end of a long pole. A rather odd sight you may think but this is just an average day for Lynette MacDonald, Sampling Officer for SEPA. Lynette explains:



“As the principal environmental regulator for Scotland we carry out regular monitoring of freshwater sites such as rivers and lochs as well as marine and coastal waters sites all over the country. I work in the National Monitoring Team as a Sampling Officer and it is my responsibility to collect all the samples in the Argyll area.”

During the bathing season (1 June to 15 September), SEPA officers take water samples at all designated bathing waters around Scotland. In Argyll, samples are taken at Machrihanish, Ganavan, Ettrick Bay on Bute and at Luss Bay and Millarochy Bay on Loch Lomond. The samples are checked for faecal indicators (bacteria). Water quality is then classified according to the levels of indicators that we find. The classifications are set by the Bathing Waters Directive. More information on bathing water sampling, and previous years results, can be found on our website: www.sepa.org.uk/water/bathing_waters.aspx

4.FORTHCOMING EVENTS -----



Argyll &
Bute
Beach
Forum

Argyll and Bute Beach Forum Education Event

Next Education event will take place in Dalmally next February. Local schools are invited to attend a day packed with workshops and fun to learn about marine life and the threat of marine litter.



Clean up Scotland campaign

Keep Scotland Beautiful has announced that it will lead a nationwide mass-engagement campaign called Clean Up Scotland, which will get underway in 2013 and will run until the end of 2014. Clean Up Scotland aims to empower clean-ups to clear Scotland of litter and mess in time for hosting major events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup in 2014, and to gradually encourage zero tolerance toward the dumping of litter and mess. The Clean Up Scotland pledge can be signed here: www.cleanupscotland.com/pledge.aspx

5.FUNDING -----

Litter Grants

The GRAB Trust has funding from EB Scotland to give small grants to groups and organisations 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 previous to carrying out the clean up. You also have to fill in the application form “[Application & Criteria for The GRAB Trust Litter Grants](#)” in order for the money to be processed. The application form includes our criteria, key contact details and other useful information.

We can also lend you cleaning equipment (litter pickers, gloves and bags) and help you carrying out a risk assessment and organising the collection of the litter. Please get in touch with the project worker in your area for more information.

6. RESOURCES -----

For a list of useful resources and publications please see our Beaches pages on our website www.grab.org.uk

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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

SSMEI: Scottish Sustainable Marine
Environmental Initiative

MCS: Marine Conservation Society

SAC: Special Areas of Conservation

SAMS: Scottish Association for Marine Science

SCF: Scottish Coastal Forum

SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest

SNH: Scottish Natural Heritage

SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest

SEPA: Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

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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