

# Flotsam and Jetsam

March 2013

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 Event**



As part of the ABBF commitment to education, the Forum recently held an education event in Dalmally attended by over 70 pupils and teachers. Local organisations, SAMS and Ali-energy provided workshops on marine pollution and sea energy. The GRAB Trust run 2 workshops highlighting the risks to marine life caused by marine litter. The Argyll and Bute Council biodiversity officer provided an activity on bumble bees. There were also hands on workshops on seashell identification and making squid wind socks. Kilmartin Museum offered pupils the opportunity of beach-digging to find hidden treasures.

Lastly, Seasearch gave pupils the opportunity to learn more about diving in Scotland. The education event was funded by The Crown Estate and if you would like us to provide one in your area please contact [cat.newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:cat.newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**2. YOUR SHOUT -----**

**News from Beachwatch Bute**

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

**3. FLOTSAM AND JETSAM FEATURES -----**

**Marine Protected Areas Advice Published**



A Scottish Government report on progress in developing a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) has recently been presented to Scottish Parliament. The report is based on advice from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) on the identification of a suite of Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Scottish waters. Designed to protect marine wildlife, habitats and geology from the coast to 200

nautical miles offshore, the proposed sites will help meet international commitments to create networks of MPAs in Scotland, the UK and across the North East Atlantic. Thirty three sites have been put forward to Scottish Ministers for consideration, with further work proposed for another four areas where there is currently not enough evidence to make firm proposals.

An online copy of the SNH advice is available at: [www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=1959](http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=1959)

For further information see [www.snh.gov.uk/MPAnetworkadvice](http://www.snh.gov.uk/MPAnetworkadvice)



### The Marine Conservation Society new “don’t let go” pack

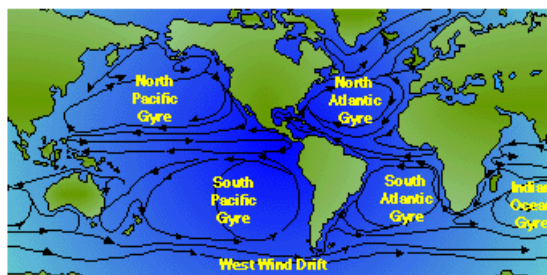


Releasing balloons and sky lanterns can cause big problems for wildlife both on land and at sea. The MCS have produced a new leaflet and an action pack to explain the issue.

Balloons and sky lanterns float back down to earth and are mistaken for food by many species of wildlife, especially turtles. Once they are eaten they can block digestive systems and cause animals to starve. The string on balloons can also entangle and trap animals. The website offers a list of alternatives including lighting candles for memorials and fun ideas such as, filling up a car with blown up balloons and get people to guess how many there are or pop balloons indoors. For more information and to download and action pack visit <http://www.mcsuk.org>

### The 5 gyres website

This website’s vision is to witness plastic pollution decline in the environment until it is no longer found in the world’s oceans. They carry out research and raise awareness about the global impact of plastic pollution in the world’s 5 gyres oceans. It is worth to have a look at their graphics. For more information visit <http://5gyres.org/>



## 4.FORTHCOMING EVENTS -----



Argyll & Bute Beach Forum

### Argyll and Bute Beach Forum Education Event

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

### Earth Hour, 23rd March

Hundreds of millions of people, businesses and governments around the world unite each year to support the largest environmental event in history - Earth Hour. More than 7000 cities and towns in 152 countries switched off their lights for Earth Hour 2012, sending a powerful message for action to save the planet. This year, more than 200,000 individuals are accepting challenges on YouTube to turn their symbolic action for the planet into an ongoing commitment to a sustainable future. For more info and events in your area, go to: <http://www.earthhour.org>

### John Muir Day, 21st April

Join the celebrations of the first ever **John Muir Day** in Scotland on 21st April 2013, the 175th anniversary of his birth. Known in America as the "father of National Parks", the Scots-born

American conservationist has inspired people all over the world. Throughout the year, we will celebrate his life and work and encourage locals and visitors to connect with Scotland's outdoors by experiencing it, exploring it and helping look after it. Look out for special events, activities and walks in National Nature Reserves, National Parks, country parks and other places across Scotland this April. For more info go to: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors/year-of-natural-scotland-2013/celebrate-john-muir/>

## 5. FUNDING -----



### SNH Grants and Year of Natural Scotland 2013

For the Year of Natural Scotland, SNH are offering 2 types of grant: Community Action Grants and Natural Project Proposals that will deliver our funding priorities and support the delivery of the Year of Natural Scotland 2013. The funding priorities include helping young people to engage with nature and landscapes and celebrating John Muir.



Other funding to specifically support delivery of activities during Year of Natural Scotland 2013 is available from VisitScotland and EventScotland. If your project can show a clear contribution to SNH funding priorities, and is eligible for the grant, SNH will consider match funding these schemes. Go to: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/funding/our-grants/what/year-of-natural-scotland/>, [www.visitscotland.org](http://www.visitscotland.org), and [www.eventscotland.org](http://www.eventscotland.org)

### The GRAB Trust Litter Grants



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 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), 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.

## 6. 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

[aisa.nebreda@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:aisa.nebreda@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Tel: 01546 604226

Cat Newsheller– Oban, Lorn and the Isles

[Cat.newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Cat.newsheller@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Tel: 01631 567965

Katharine Usher – Cowal, Bute, Helensburgh and Lomond

[katharine.usher@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:katharine.usher@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Tel: 01369 700137

### Beachwatch Bute Beach Ranger -

Sandra MacMillan—Bute

Tel: 07767795969

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.

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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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