









Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Read More...

Updates

Hello & Welcome to the Summer 2017 edition of Marine Litter Watch

by Susan Cramer, Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA

Thank you to everyone who has contributed by sending articles, news and updates. Looking at the events table an interesting and productive summer lies ahead.

There are some great events to participate in and also exciting developments at a local, national and international level. These reflect the growing recognition that marine litter is a serious pressure on the marine environment and a major global environmental concern.

The Fish Cemetery

Our cover image is of an installation called the "Fish Cemetery". The image was taken by a DAERA colleague who recently visited Cochin in the Indian State of Kerala. The installation is a collaboration between the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and the Kochi and Cochin Shipyard Limited. The objective of the installation is to remind people that the world is fast approaching a scenario in which non-biodegradable

plastic waste destroys the eco-system of aquatic organisms and results in harmful effects to marine life. The message is the same the world over; we must work together to address the problem of marine litter.



News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough Read More...

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table







Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Hello & Welcome continued

Plastic Challenge

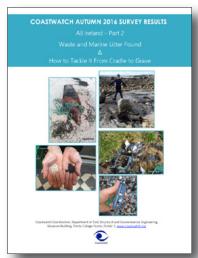
Inspired by Kate Wilson's article in the Summer 2016 edition of Marine Litter Watch, a colleague and I undertook the Marine Conservation's Plastic Challenge 2017 in June. The Challenge really highlighted how dependent we are on plastic and also how time consuming it is to live without it.

In spite of our best efforts we were unable to totally eliminate plastic. However, we greatly reduced our usage, with measures like replacing ziplock bags with Tupperware and using reusable coffee cups instead of the carry-out versions. I bought a pasta maker which helped a lot. It was truly a challenging month! I also went to St Georges market to buy fruit

and vegetables.

Article Summary

This edition focuses on the clean-up and data capture activities that people are taking around the coast.



The magazine opens with an article by Karin Dubsky who is the international coordinator for Coastwatch. Coastwatch undertakes an annual survey of biodiversity and litter on the island of Ireland. The Coastwatch Survey is now in its 30th year and Karin reports on results and observations from the 2016 Survey.

Gwen Moncoiffé, a volunteer litter picker, describes the monthly cleanups she has carried out north of

Portaferry since September 2016. Gwen reports on the data she has captured and identifies practical solutions to address the problem.

Elaine Smith, from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council describes how council is working with volunteers to address the problem of marine litter in Larne Lough around the mouth of the River Inver.



Adopt A Spot-Rathlin

Would you be interested in adopting a spot? **Jodie McAneaney**, from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful describes how you can join Adopt A Spot volunteers and help to revitalise communities across Northern Ireland.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table





Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division Update

Skerries and Causeway Coast SAC Site Management Plan

Within DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division work is continuing to help address the problem of marine litter. Staff in our Marine Conservation and Reporting Team are looking at ways to address marine litter via the draft Management Plan for the Skerries and Causeway Special Area of Conservation. We are building on work already undertaken through the Rathlin Island European Marine Site Management Group. Rathlin Island is protected as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area and in December 2016 was designated as a Marine Conservation Zone. In July 2016 DAERA staff assessed the extent of marine litter in the Rathlin area, noting the location of large items of metal and plastic.

Ban on microbeads

Over 400 responses were received to the consultation on proposals to ban the use of micro beads in cosmetics and personal care products in the UK. The ban is good news for the environment and will apply to solid microplastic ingredients <5mm in size in every dimension. These are used as an ingredients in rinse-off cosmetics and personal care products including; exfoliating scrubs, shower gels and toothpastes.



This is a rocky reef, one of the designated features of the SAC

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table







Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Updates continued

Response to Consultation

The majority of responses to the consultation were supportive of the



Image courtesy of Alliance of the Great Lakes

ban. However, there were mixed opinions on whether the ban should be extended to other products. A copy of the Government Response is now available from our website.

Legislation in Northern Ireland

DAERA is working to develop legislation under Article 32 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 to establish the ban in Northern Ireland. We anticipate that this will be consulted on later in 2017.

Mysterious blue balls on the North Down Shore

In March 2017 we received a call from a gentleman who lives in the

Carnalea area who had noticed small, bright blue, sponge balls appearing on the coast. He kindly delivered the balls to our premises in Belfast. A colleague did a Google search which suggested that these were Taprogge balls.

Taprogge balls

Taprogge balls are used in the condenser cleaning system of power stations. The balls are made of natural



rubber and should degrade in the marine environment.

AES take the system out of service

We passed the balls to colleagues in the Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate team who informed AES, the operator of Kilroot Power Station about the issue. AES responded promptly to our request and agreed to investigate whether the Taprogge balls originated from the plant. AES took the system out of service as a precaution until the results of the investigation were complete.

The system was cleaned and had its valves replaced. It has since been returned to service.

Partnership between AES and Ulster Wildlife

As reported in this and previous issues of Marine Litter Watch, AES has a long-term partnership with Ulster Wildlife and conducts quarterly beach cleans as part of the 'Adopt a Spot' initiative run by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table





Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

News

Scientific eXXpedition visits Belfast on 15th August



An all female team of volunteers plans to set sail from Plymouth on 7th August 2017 in a 72 foot yacht called Sea Dragon. The volunteer crew includes scientists, artists, photographers, educators, business women and psychologists.

Purpose

The purpose of the <u>eXXpedition</u> is to undertake a scientific survey in the waters around the UK and to engage with local communities about the presence of plastic pollution and other toxins in the sea.

15th August: A day of activitiesThe Sea Dragon will be berthed in
Belfast from 14th to 16th August. The
volunteers plan a day of activities on

15th August. Join the crew in the Dock



Putting out the trawl

Cafe and Odyssey Pavilion to discuss the presence of plastics and other toxins in the seas; how they get there and the harm they do to the marine environment and ultimately everyone.

Wax moth could help dispose of plastic waste

An accidental discovery by Spanish scientist and bee keeper, Dr. Feerica Bertocchini, could revolutionise the way we dispose of plastic waste. Dr. Bertoccini found some wax moth larvae in one of her hives. These larvae eat honey and infest beehives. Dr. Bertocchini removed the larvae and placed them in a plastic bag. When she next looked at the bag she

discovered they had chewed their way through the plastic.

Follow up test

In a follow up test, run in conjunction with Cambridge University, 100 wax worms were placed in a plastic bag. After 40 minutes holes appeared and over 12 hours 92 micrograms of plastic was consumed and the polymer chains within the plastic were broken down.



Wax moth caterpillar- Image courtesy of Andrew Tyzack

Next Steps

The next step will be identifying the molecular process by which the larvae break down plastic and attempting to isolate the enzyme responsible.
Currently around 38% of discarded waste in Europe ends up in landfill sites. Perhaps this research could help reduce this figure?

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough Read More...

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table







Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

News continued

Litter Strategy for England

On 10th April 2017 the UK
Department for Communities and
Local Government; Department for
Transport, and Defra published a Litter
Strategy for England. The Strategy
sets out a partnership approach to
working together to stop people
littering. It is intended that the
Strategy will reduce the amount of
litter that makes its way into rivers and
seas.



Litter Strategy for England

Education, enforcement and infrastructure

The Strategy is built around three broad themes of education, enforcement and infrastructure. It also contains a section on measuring litter and proposes the development of a baseline and methodology for assessing and monitoring the extent of litter in England. Following on from this, litter reduction targets for commonly littered items will be considered.

The Cotton Bud Project

Have you noticed packets of non-plastic cotton buds appearing in our shops? The Scottish Government along with Firda, an environmental charity based in East Lothian, the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Fauna and Flora and Fauna International have been have been working with retailers to make the transition from plastic to paper cotton bud sticks a reality.

Inappropriate disposal of cotton buds

Pollution from cotton bud sticks is

caused by consumers who dispose of cotton buds inappropriately. This is in spite of 'Do Not Flush' labelling, public education campaigns like "Bag It and Bin It" and improved sewage treatment. Brands which now have biodegradable sticks include: Johnsons, Marks and Spencer's Free Trade, The Body Shop Organics and Co-operative Fair Trade.

TOBACCO THREATENS US ALI



Tobacco – a threat to development

The World Health Organisation celebrates 31 May as World No Tobacco Day. The theme for 2017 is "Tobacco – a threat to development". This addresses the affects of tobacco products on the environment as well as on the health of users.

continued

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table





Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

News continued

No. 1 littered item on our planet Approximately 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered each year. These are made of plastic and contain toxic chemicals like arsenic, lead and ethyl phenol as well as nicotine. Plastic from cigarette packaging and lighters can also cause marine animals to choke. While banning smoking in public places such as beaches could help address the problem, changing attitudes towards littering is also key.

Snuffed Out Marine Life Campaign

American charity the Surfrider
Foundation and gryo San Francisco
have launched a campaign to
de-normalise the act of littering
cigarettes. The "Snuffed Out Marine
Life" campaign uses clever images to
directly connect cigarette butt litter
to the wildlife being damaged. It aims
to help change behaviour and make
people think twice about dropping
cigarette litter.

Ulster Wildlife supports the Big Spring Beach Clean

In April, the Ulster Wildlife Living Seas Team was active around the coast of Northern Ireland conducting beach cleans for the Big Spring Clean. The Team took part in five beach cleans from Portrush to Carlingford Lough. Media interest was high with coverage by Home Ground on BBC1 Television, Your Place and Mine on BBC Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle, and local newspapers.

149 Bags of litter removed

In total the equivalent of 149 bags of litter were removed by 100 volunteers during the five Big Spring Beach Cleans. Ulster Wildlife would like to thank Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council who provided logistics and support.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough Read More...

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table









Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

News continued

Kilkeel schools litter awareness talk

4th April saw a link-up with Love Your Lough for a school's marine litter awareness talk and beach clean. Dave Wall gave a talk on the marine litter issues to 40 pupils from St. Louis Grammar School Kilkeel, and Kilkeel High School. The students appeared genuinely shocked by some of the facts, such as 8 million tonnes of plastic waste enter the world's oceans each year and this is set to double in the next 10 years.

Cranfield Beach clean-up

The group headed to Cranfield Beach and met up with Love Your Lough for a beach clean. The children removed 25 bags of plastic, glass, tin cans, old fishing gear, work gloves, and four car tyres.

Kilroot Beach, Belfast Lough

On the 5th April the Living Seas Team undertook its fifth visit to Kilroot. Belfast Lough to tackle the ongoing litter problem on this beach. Once again they were joined by the staff and management of AES Kilroot, local volunteers, and Ulster Wildlife/ AES Biodiversity Intern, Monika

Wojcieszek. In a team effort, a further 74 bags of litter were removed from the beach. This brought the total to 314 bags of litter removed since November 2015.

Larger items are no longer present

This time round the change was noticeable. More effort was spent on small pieces of litter as much of the larger litter had been removed by previous efforts. A return in the summer is planned to further progress the goal of making this beach litter-free.

Ramore Head, Portrush

On 11th April, 25 local volunteers joined with Ulster Wildlife for a shoreline clean at Ramore Head. Also on site was the Your Place and Mine radio programme, who covered the event and spoke to volunteers about why they were involved. At first glance, the headland didn't look too badly littered but a shocking 35 bags of litter were removed from the rocks and rock pools along the shoreline. Most of the litter was food and

Fvents Table

key dates for your diary Read More...

takeaway packaging.





Hello & Welcome

Updates

Read More...

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough Read More...

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...





Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

News continued

Glenarm, Co. Antrim

On 20th April Ulster Wildlife teamed up with colleagues at Glenarm Wildlife Group and the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme for a beach clean at Glenarm Strand. 17 volunteers turned up to help and 10 bags of litter, a pile of scrap metal and various other items were removed from the beach. Two large plastic road barriers that had lain on the beach for four years gathering sand were also removed.



UW Glenarm Beach Clean

Killough, Co. Down

Finally, on 21st April Ulster Wildlife joined up with Lecale Conservation and a small band of volunteers in Killough to conduct a beach clean. 10 bags of litter and a fridge were removed as well as dozens of rubber ties used by oyster farms. Ulster Wildlife hopes to return to Killough in the summer to complete a clean-up of the shore around the harbour.

World Animal Protection Initiatives

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) launched practical guidance for the seafood industry to reduce lost or discarded fishing gear(ghost gear). The guidance recommends practical steps the seafood industry can take to reduce the litter. Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback through a global consultation on the framework - www.ghostgear.org/best-practice-consultation

Partners

The GGGI is a cross-sectoral alliance committed to driving solutions to the problem of ghost gear worldwide and was founded by global animal welfare charity World Animal Protection in 2015. Members include KIMO, TriMarine, Sainsbury's, Young's Seafood, Northern Prawn Fisheries, and the International Pole and Line Foundation.

UN Ocean Conference in June

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative took part in the global UN Ocean Conference on the 5th June. The conference took place in New York and brought together countries all around the world to pledge real actions on improving the health of our oceans. GGGI held a high level side event with the Governments of Belgium and Tonga. We presented the work of the GGGI and how it is tackling the problem of lost and abandoned fishing gear.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table





Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report by Karin Dubsky, International Coordinator – Coastwatch Europe

Contact: KDubsky@Coastwatch.org

International Network

Coastwatch Ireland is part of an international network of environmental groups, universities and other educational institutions, who work with local groups and individuals around the coast of Europe.

Dedicated Volunteers

Sadly no NI sponsorship was secured for 2016. Hopefully 2017 which is the 30th All Ireland Survey will see training and materials sponsorship, lots of volunteers and a sweep of the Northern Ireland coast. Our website is already open for pre-booking. www.coastwatch.org.

Coastwatch Report

The Coastwatch Report is unique in that it reports on the island of Ireland and focuses on the coast-its character, bio diversity and marine litter.

Results: Large Items

There are 7 categories of large waste and the results for tyres are significantly higher in the north than they are in the south of Ireland.

Used tyres were the most widespread large waste item north and south, reported on 27.2% of the coast with a total count of 1040 tyres in 143 survey units. Although tyres were reported in 47% of Northern Ireland survey units the numbers were small. Some were bike tyres or tubes associated with a bike rest spot at the Narrows, Carlingford.

Results: Small Items

A total of 18,364 drinks container litter items were counted – that represents 70 items of drinks packaging per km surveyed.

As in previous years, plastic bottles topped the count. A total of 8,649 bottles were recorded on 84% of the shoreline surveyed. This is an average of 36 bottles per km of coast. In Northern Ireland the number of plastic bottles recorded was particularly high. This was skewed by one very high count on the shore close to AES Kilroot.



Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table





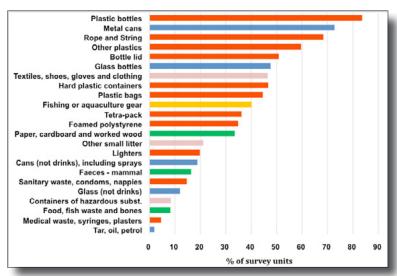




Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report continued

Contact: KDubsky@Coastwatch.org



Observations

Looking back over the last 25 years, key changes include:

- (i) a progressive reduction in sewage related litter.
- (ii) a trebling of sites which have been cleaned in the week of the Coastwatch survey – from 1-2% in the 1990s and early 2000 surveys, to 4% in 2012, to 8% of shores in 2016.
- (iii) the closure of coastal landfill sites

(but opening up of old sites by sea erosion in at least 3 sites).

(iv) the arrival of new litter – from mobile phones and microwaves to dog poo bags and cotton buds. While cotton buds have been around for almost 90 years, it was the change from rolled paper or wooden to plastic sticks which made cotton buds a visible sewage related shore litter item.

Conclusions

Coastwatch is calling for the introduction of a deposit return system (DRS) for drinks containers to help reduce this type of litter.

We are also calling for better strategic assessments to screen out new products and materials which could contribute to the marine litter load. Financial and other incentives are required to address waste along with better detection and enforcement of penalties against those who break the law.

A full chapter on recommendations is provided in the Coastwatch waste and litter report which is now online.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough Read More...

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table





Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Litter survey around Portaferry in Strangford Lough by Gwen Moncoiffé

Contact: Contact via the editor

Since September 2016, I have carried out regular litter surveys and cleanups at two sites north of Portaferry on the shore of Strangford Lough:
Ballyhenry Bay and Marlfield Bay. Both these sites accumulate a lot of plastic litter. Although they are occasionally cleaned by local residents, the litter keeps coming!



Getting started at Ballyhenry Bay

I chose a continuous section of beach which was easily accessible and could be cleaned within 1 hour. The section is south facing and mainly covered with shingle. In autumn and winter wracks of torn off seaweed,



washed ashore by tides and storms, accumulate in thick patches. A small scenic road runs along the shore and the bay is used by local yachtsmen and divers.

Results

On my first clean-up I collected 611 items which I counted into categories based on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) classification. 90% of the litter was plastic and over 50% was recyclable items such as plastic bottles, aluminium cans, tetrapacks. A large proportion of the litter (64%) was from food and drink packaging and in particular sweets/snacks/crisps wrappers (12%), small plastic drink bottles (22%) and small drink cans (6%). Subsequent surveys showed similar results.

Classification

Counting and categorising the items is time consuming. However, it is an important way to gain a better understanding of the sources and dynamics of marine litter. It can also help us develop local solutions. I used the MSFD list so that data can be compared with other surveys in Northern Ireland and in Europe.

Subcategories

I also created my own subcategories because I wanted to quantify items that were either recyclable locally, dangerous to wildlife or likely to come from local take-away shops.

What have I learnt so far?

Food packaging, in particular snack food items such as crisps packets, sweets wrappers, soft drink bottles, take-away containers and disposable cutlery, is the main source of plastic litter around Portaferry.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table









Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Litter survey around Portaferry in Strangford Lough continued

Contact: Contact via the editor

Need for local action

Many of these items look fairly fresh so local action to reduce littering would have a significant impact on reducing the amount of marine litter in the area. Public bins are not a solution because winds and birds as well as careless disposal can result in litter being scattered and blown onto the beach. The message should be: "Take it home and bin it!"

A large proportion of the marine litter I collected is recyclable. These items should not be found on the beach in such numbers. We need to understand why this is the case. While some may be brought by the tides as floating objects, others may have escaped from recycling bins or come from shorebased littering.

Some items such as large transparent or semi-transparent plastic sheets, bags, meshed bags, nets, monofilament or decomposing plastic ropes are particularly hazardous to marine wildlife. I always find them during my surveys and pick them up in priority to any other items when walking the shores. These items should always be removed from the shores to avoid them returning to the sea and causing risk to sea mammals, birds and turtles.



Fishermen's heavy duty blue gloves and their wrappers are regularly found on the shore in numbers that far exceed the occasional accidental loss. The habit of throwing things into the sea needs to be addressed among the fishing community.

Cotton buds are found on beaches because many people throw them down the toilet. This is being tackled by pressure groups around the UK with some success (http://www.cottonbudproject.org.uk/) and some supermarkets are already taking steps to stop selling plastic cotton bud sticks. This shows that targeted action by volunteer groups can be effective.

Clean beaches benefit everyone

Cleaning your local beach is a good way to keep fit and enjoy the fresh air and the beauty of our surroundings without driving miles. It is rewarding and it can be done without the need for special equipment. A litter picker can be useful but a pair of gloves is often sufficient. Lunging and crouching are good exercises for the joints too! Every little action counts: every bit of plastic removed or prevented from reaching a coastal area is one less likely to pollute the ocean or cause harm to marine life.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table





Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Managing litter pollution in Larne Lough by Elaine Smith, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Contact: <u>Elaine.smith@midandeastantrim.gov.uk</u>



Larne Lough Ducks and Rubbish

Larne Lough is a sea lough approximately 9 km long. It has diverse habitats around the shore ranging from an artificial brackish lagoon in the northwest to mudflats, rocky shores and salt marshes.

Wildlife

Larne Lough regularly supports nationally important numbers of overwintering birds including Goldeneye Ducks, Great Crested Grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers and Shelducks.

Litter

The area of the Lough closest to Larne Town, at the Harbour Highway, is a litter sink i.e. it gathers marine debris (mostly plastic bottles) at high tide. The litter gets trapped and is detrimental to wildlife and unsightly. Plastic bottles come from two main sources; those thrown out of lorries coming off boats at Larne Harbour (normally containing urine) and those thrown into the Inver River from antisocial behaviour which are carried into the Lough.

Volunteers

Keeping the area litter free is challenging. It has been cleared of bottles on a number of occasions over recent years, only to fill up again.

Creative Solutions

In 2014 we worked with volunteers to clear the area. Pupils from St MacNissi's Primary School in Larne constructed a greenhouse made almost entirely of the (carefully



Pupils from St MacNissi's Primary School in Larne

washed) plastic bottles gathered after the February storms. The greenhouse was put together under the guidance of the Council's Education Officer who noted the construction contained over 700 bottles and was an ideal way to get pupils talking about littering issues.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table







Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Managing litter pollution in Larne Lough continued

Contact: <u>Elaine.smith@midandeastantrim.gov.uk</u>

Joint Approach

In January 2017, volunteers travelled from Portglenone, Kilrea and Rasharkin after viewing pictures of the Lough's rubbish-strewn banks. 53 bags of rubbish were cleared from the Lough shore.

The following weekend the group joined forces with local residents, members of Larne Through a Lens, Larne Renovation Generation, Live Here Love Here, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and River Ridge

Recycling to clear an additional 95 bags of rubbish from this local beauty spot.

Sadly, in spite of this work and the litter picks that have happened since, there has been little reduction in the amount of litter that gathers in this area of the Lough.

Ongoing work

Mid and East Antrim Council is committed to addressing the problem. The Council has written to local freight companies and the officials at the Port of Larne to highlight that drivers throw bottles into the sea as they come off the boats. The Council maintains the harbour highway and ensures it is free from litter. This is part of our ongoing cleaning programme. The area is also regularly monitored by litter wardens. The Council also organises an annual litter pick of the highway in partnership with Asda and uses local press to highlight area.

Going Forward

Mid and East Antrim Council will continue to support volunteer groups to address the problem. Litter picks will continue at Larne Lough at least twice annually. In addition, the Council is working with PSNI to address antisocial behaviour in the areas close to Larne Lough and Inver River. The Council's environmental education programme continues to arrange school visits in the Borough to highlight the damage caused by marine litter.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough Read More...

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table







Newsletter

Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Adopt a Spot by Jodie McAneaney, Live Here Love Here Manager

Contact: jodie-ann.mcaneaney@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Is there an area in your community that could do with a clean up? Are you fed up of unsightly graffiti, litter and dog mess on your doorstep? With street cleansing costing £43 million a year, why not take pride in your area and Adopt A Spot!

Anywhere is possible

Adopt A Spot is a scheme that formally enables volunteer groups across Northern Ireland to adopt an area and look after it. It could be a mile of beach that always seems to be full of litter, an area covered in graffiti, an urban park or your local forest or even the street you live on.... anywhere is possible!



Committed volunteers

There are currently 238 spots adopted by volunteers who have committed to holding eight clean ups over a two year period – that's 1904 clean ups undertaken by Adopt A Spot volunteers helping to revitalise communities across Northern Ireland.



Adopt a Spot - Millisle

Feel good and make a difference

Adopters can be anyone, from families, community or youth groups, schools, businesses and sporting associations. Volunteering is a great way to get out and about and give you a feel good factor while simultaneously making a difference in your community.

How to run a clean up

With the help of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful you will hold four clean ups a year at a time of your choosing. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful will provide groups with an adoption pack containing all the equipment you need, including litter pickers, gloves, high-vis vests, certificate and a hints and tips booklet on how to run a successful clean up.



Get involved

If you are interested in instilling a pride of place in your community and busting that grot, or simply would like more information, please contact Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful at the details above.

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table







Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Events Table - Key dates for your diary

29/08/2017	Snorkel Safari - Groomsport	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/29/snorkel-safari-groomsport
26/08/2017	WhaleWatch Ireland, Bloody Bridge, Co. Down	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/26/whalewatch-ireland-2017
26/08/2017	Wake the Giant Festival, Warrenpoint	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/26/wake-giant-festival-warrenpoint
23/08/2017	Snorkel Safari, Killough, Co. Down	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/23/snorkel-safari-killough
17/08/2017	Coastal Foraging, Rostrevor, Co. Down	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/17/coastal-foraging-rostrevor
15/08/2017	Snorkel Safari, Glenarm, Co. Antrim	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/15/snorkel-safari-glenarm
13/08/2017	Coastal Foraging, Cushendall, Co. Antrim	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/13/coastal-foraging-cushendall
10/08/2017	Surveying Marine Mammals Workshop, Cultra, Co. Down	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/10/workshop-surveying-marine-mammals
08/08/2017	Snorkel Safari, Portrush, Co. Antrim	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/08/snorkel-safari-portrush
05/08/2017	Summer Festival, Donaghadee, Co. Down	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/08/05/donaghadee-rnli-day

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table







Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Events Table - Key dates for your diary *continued*

	Coastal Foraging - Carlingford	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/09/16/coastal-foraging-carlingford
14/10/2017	Seashore Scavenge - Glenarm	http://www.ulsterwildlife.org/events/2017/10/14/seashore-scavenge-glenarm

Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table







Issue 10 - Summer 2017

Produced by:

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Belfast, BT7 2JA

For further information on the work of the DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division, or to submit an article for inclusion in the Marine Litter Watch Newsletter, please contact Susan Cramer.

E-mail: susan.cramer@daera-ni.gov.uk

ISBN: 978-1-84807-796-6





Hello & Welcome

Read More...

Updates

Read More...

News

Read More...

Coastwatch 2016 Annual Report

Read More...

Litter survey

around Portaferry in Strangford Lough **Read More...**

Managing litter pollution

in Larne Lough
Read More...

Adopt a Spot

Read More...

Events Table

key dates for your diary **Read More...**

20 DMS:17.18.073