

Beachcomber

The occasional newsletter of the
Furness and South Cumbria Beach Clean Group



BeachCare News

Hi again everyone, and apologies for the long delay of nearly 10 months since the last newsletter! On the positive side, that does give me lots to write about. My organisation of beach cleans in the latter half of last year was somewhat random, but I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have a pretty full program of beach cleans and events for 2010. Full details of beach cleans planned to date are on the last page of this newsletter.

So, what have we been up to since the last newsletter?

Piel Island 2009

Sunday 31st May, 2009 saw our second low-tide walk and beach clean on Piel Island. Last year saw even more participants than 2008, with more than 160 walkers braving the glorious sunshine to make the crossing to Piel. Once again, we were joined by members and supporters of StreetSafe, and were accompanied by Walney members of the Coastguard.



Courtesy of D. Benham

You may remember that the last newsletter had a "quiz", with the offer of a small prize. David Benham, one of our regular beach clean volunteers, knew that Fordbootle was a lost village formerly in the manor of Muchland, though like everyone else I've spoken to, he didn't know where Hurst Island used to be... If anyone does know where Hurst Island used to be, I'd love to hear from them! Maybe that should be the next competition? David kindly shared his prize of a bottle of Rioja with some of the regular BeachCare volunteers.



'he back!

This year sees the annual Piel Island walk moving to mid-June, as the tides at the end of May are not as suitable for the crossing as in previous years. Please see the last page for details.



Thanks as always to King Steve for helping us get the equipment over to the island!

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West Plain, Flookburgh

Rain, wind and more rain! Why is it that whenever we go to Flookburgh or Humphrey Head the weather is abysmal? Even so, fifteen volunteers braved the atrocious April conditions to help clear up the beach for the Cross-Bay Race. The guys from Bay Search and Rescue came along and helped out tremendously as they always do with the removal of larger items from the beach. They also very kindly offered tea and coffee back at their HQ when it became obvious that if we stayed out any longer we would begin to be hypothermic!

Despite the horrific weather we still managed to remove a considerable amount of litter and leave the beach looking clean and clear. There must be some truth in the saying "beach cleaners do it in all weathers...!" And just to let you know, we have booked good weather for the beach clean at Humphrey Head in May....

Aldingham Beach, Furness Peninsula

Last autumn saw us make our first visit to Aldingham beach. At first glance, the beach looked clean and clear, but closer inspection revealed loads of litter along the strand-line and in and amongst the rocks and undergrowth. Nearly thirty volunteers turned out for this event, enough for us to split up into two groups and cover a large swathe of shoreline.



Many of you have commented in the past that we should pay more attention to this stretch of the coast, especially between Aldingham and Bardsea. Until now, this has not been practical as we have had no suitable meeting point, and no site where we could leave the litter at the end of the beach clean. However, after a little bit of local research, we now have a meeting point and a litter collection point too, so watch out for a new beach clean venue very soon!



North Shore, Walney Island

As I sit here typing the newsletter, my eye is drawn to all the snow in our back garden. What a difference to the glorious weather we enjoyed on Saturday 20th February at North Walney. Who'd have thought that not 24 hours later we would be once again under a blanket of the white stuff?

Twenty-five volunteers turned out for the first Furness and South Cumbria beach clean of 2010. We were delighted to be joined by Eve Borrino - our County Countryside Ranger, and by Colin Barnes, who is acting warden for the North Walney Nature Reserve.

In all, more than 250Kg of litter was removed from the beach, including a shopping trolley! Yes, it's true - they do get everywhere.

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Future Cleans and Walks

We are always on the look-out for beaches to clean and interesting coastal walks. If you have any suggestions for beaches or walks, or are interested in leading an event yourself, please call Susannah at the Morecambe Bay Partnership office on 015397 35900, or contact Matt on 07933 744222 or by email beachclean@ymail.com

Upcoming Beach Cleans and Events around Morecambe Bay

Location	Date	Times		Grid Reference	Notes
		Start	Finish		
Silverdale Cove	Wednesday 24 th February	10:00	12:00	SD456755	Meet at the small road-end car park by the cove. <i>Weather permitting!</i>
Hest Bank	Saturday 20 th March	10:00	12:00	SD468667	Meet at the car park over the level crossing.
Silverdale Beach	Saturday 27 th March	10:00	12:00	SD458749	Meet at the shore side road-end car park in the village.
South Walney Explore the Coast	Saturday 10 th April	13:00	16:00	SD205629	Meet at South Walney Nat. Reserve. Free parking. Sorry, no dogs. Tel: 07831 199145
Half Moon Bay	Sunday 18 th April	10:00	no set time	see notes	Beach clean organised by Lancs. MCS. Contact Jo Kaye for details: 01524 581431
New Barns Arnside	Wednesday 21 st April	10:00	12:00	SD444776	Meet at the road end by the shore.
Morecambe Lodge	Saturday 24 th April	10:00	12:00	SD469674	Meet at the road end by the shore.
Bardsea	Saturday 1 st May	10:00	12:00	SD304743	Organised as part of the Ulverston Walking Festival and lead by Steve Povey.
<i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Wednesday 5 th May	10:00	12:00	see notes	The date is set, but the venue is not! Please check nearer the time for details.
Hest Bank	Saturday 8 th May	10:00	12:00	SD468667	Meet at the car park over the level crossing.
Humphrey Head <i>To be confirmed</i>	Saturday 8 th May	10:00	12:00	SD390740	Meet at the road-end car park. Contact Katie Sheehy for details: 015395 38120.
Holgates Silverdale	Wednesday 16 th June	10:00	12:00	SD455758	Meet in the car park.
Piel Island Walk Explore the Coast	Saturday 19 th June	09:00	Before 15:00	SD209639	Park and meet at Snab Point on Walney for the annual walk to Piel. Bar open on island...
Gibraltar Farm Cove, Silverdale	Saturday 17 th July	10:00	12:00	SD460743	No special notes.
Earnse Bay Walney Island	Wednesday 4 th August	17:00	19:00	SD170699	Joint event with NW Kitesports. Please note this is an evening event.
Middleton Sands Heysham	Wednesday 11 th August	16:30	18:00	SD414582	Joint event with Centrica and Middleton Towers Resident Assn. Meet off Carr Lane.
More events are always being added to the calendar, so please check out our website for the latest and most up to date details of events and beach cleans all around the bay: http://www.morecambebay.org.uk/what_we_do/BeachCare.html					

If you do not want to receive this newsletter again, call or text Matt on 07933 744222 or send an email with the words "NO NEWSLETTER" in the subject line to beachclean@ymail.com

Morecambe Bay Partnership is a registered charity (No.1089559).

The partnership postal address is: Morecambe Bay Partnership, 32 Market Place, Kendal, LA9 4TN.