

Beachcomber



The newsletter of the Furness and South Cumbria Beach Clean Group

Surfers Paradise

On a breezy evening in early June thirty volunteers turned out at Earnse Bay and joined staff from North West Kite Surfers to give the beach a good clean up in readiness for the Walney round of the British National Kite Surfing Championship. Mayor of Barrow Ken Williams had recently professed an interest in beach cleaning and he dropped in, en-route to another appointment, to see what we get up to.



Amazingly, what is often one of our grubbier beaches was not too bad at all this time and an hour of hard work saw us pick up 35 bags of litter (weighing in at 131kg) and leave the beach looking spotless for the kite surfing competition. Gary Powell, who runs North West Kite Surfing and had asked us to help out, was delighted with the outcome, saying "the shore looks great and this shows the kite surfers coming here from all over the country that we care about our beaches". It certainly does!



I must mention that I nipped down to Earnse Bay again to have a look and see how the beach looked after the kite surfing championships and it looked great. Despite a really big turn out in both competitors and spectators, there was almost no littering at all! If people did this at every beach, we'd be out of a job!

If you would like to host a beach clean or take part in a planned event please write to me, care of the Morecambe Bay Partnership office, call me on my mobile: 07933 744222 or email me: beachclean@btinternet.com

We also welcome enquiries from organisations that would like to hold events. Recently we have worked with North West Kite Surfers and Alfred Barrow School.

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

Schools out - to beach clean!

Earlier this year we were delighted to receive an enquiry from the Alfred Barrow School, in Barrow in Furness. Staff and students at the school were keen to undertake the John Muir Trust award scheme. This environmentally orientated award scheme, open to all ages, is designed to encourage participants to find and explore new environments, to carry out works to conserve those environments and to share the knowledge that they have gained with a wider audience. So on an exceptionally



windy Tuesday, twelve students and eight staff travelled to North Walney Nature Reserve and joined up with Matt Sanderson and three Natural England staff, including Martin Rhodes the reserve warden. Before starting the beach clean, Martin led the group through the nature reserve, taking time to describe the different habitats along the way, and to explain how the local ecology is being managed to best protect the Natterjack toad habitats. After a quick lunch, the staff and students carried out a beach clean on the shoreline from the north end of the nature reserve, down to the southern limit. Two hours of hard work saw more than forty bags of litter collected and the beach looking much better for a good clean-up!

The John Muir Trust award scheme is open to people of all ages, and anyone interested in developing their interest beyond beach cleaning and gaining an award could consider the scheme. For more information check their website: <http://www.jmt.org/john-muir-award.asp> or call Graham Watson or Jenny Gerrans on 01768 893656.

Upcoming Beach Cleans and Events in Furness and South Cumbria

Location	Date	Times		Grid Reference	Notes
		Start	Finish		
New Biggin	26 th July	10:00	12:00	SD269692	Meeting opposite the turning into New Biggin village. If the weather is good this event will run on.
Grange over Sands	7 th - 13 th August	10:30	17:30	Victoria Hall, Main Street	<i>EXPO 2008 - Changing Channels</i> The story of Furness and its relationship to Morecambe Bay
Roanhead	23 rd August	10:00	12:00	SD200757	Meet at Roanhead car park. We continue North up the coast after lunch. Please join us for that too!
Rampside	20 th September	10:00	12:00	SD234659	Park at the car park on the causeway. Meet outside the Concle. If weather is good this event will run on.
Cartmel Peninsula	18 th October	10:00	12:00		Location to be finalised, please watch for future newsletters. Any suggestions for beach clean locations are very welcome!
North Walney Nat. Reserve	15 th November	10:00	12:00	SD170699	Meet at Earnse Bay car park. If the weather is good this event will run on.

For details of our beach cleans all around the bay, check out our website:
http://www.morecambebay.org.uk/what_we_do/BeachCare.html

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