



Local News from Northeast England

(Please come along and say 'hello')

- 1) Old Low Light heritage centre (OLL), North Shields fish quay.
NEBBS group bird / beach display (up to 3 large tables) on Wed 22 Feb (11am – 3pm) and Thur 23 Feb (10am – 3pm). Admission to OLL £2.00 (children under 16 are free).
- 2) Old Low Light heritage centre, North Shields fish quay.
Saturday, 15 April, 11 a.m. A presentation about the beached bird and fulmar projects in Northeast England, with international implications.
- 3) Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear (Newcastle University).
Wednesday, 16 August, 10 am – 4 pm The aquarium will be open to the public and there will be a display with information about our beached bird and fulmar projects.

UK Beached Bird Survey Report, 2016

This national report, written by Andrew Stanbury (Conservation Scientist, RSPB), is sent along with this NEBBS News Note.

Fidra

Fidra is a Scottish charity based in North Berwick. They ran a great winter nurdle hunt over 3-5 Feb, 2017, in collaboration with The Marine Conservation Society, Surfers Against Sewage, Fauna & Flora International, Greenpeace and The Environmental Investigation Agency. These microplastic particles ('nurdles') are used by the plastics industry to create almost all our plastic products, and are easily spilled during handling. If they're not cleaned up properly, they can end up down the drain, in our water courses and at sea where they can harm marine life. Unfortunately, these pellets are regularly found in the stomachs of seabirds.

Refer to Fidra website here www.fidra.org.uk

Campaigns

- a) Avaaz – news from this group

More than 100 million plastic bottles are used worldwide every day - at this rate there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean before 2050! But there's a way out. Paris Mayor and climate champion Anne Hidalgo is leading the C40, the world's top mayors' coalition, to make our cities cleaner, greener and friendlier to the planet. Since taking office, she's created a climate revolution in Paris, and ending plastic pollution is a priority for her!

If we can build a million people-powered call to Hidalgo, we can give her the backing she needs to propose a plastic bottle ban for all cities in the coalition - then work with mayors to make it a reality! Ending plastic pollution in our cities could give the planet a chance to breathe again.

Add your name now and we'll deliver your signatures to Hidalgo and to all mayors of the C40.

You may sign the petition here

https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/end_bottled_water_madness_11/?bgnQAeb&v=87840&cl=11816804979&checksum=dc4980bf04edd5c905cdc34afc67edb7c72742d7629d877c621c041059de5848

Liquid assets: how the business of bottled water went mad (The Guardian)

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/oct/06/liquid-assets-how--business-bottled-water-went-mad>

b) 38 Degrees – news from this group

Stop marine plastic pollution by introducing a small, refundable deposit on all plastic bottles, glass bottles and cans to recycle the 16 million plastic bottles thrown away every day.

You may sign the petition here https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/promoted/bring-back-bottle-deposits-to-stop-plastic-pollution-in-our-oceans-1?utm_source=email&utm_medium=blast&utm_campaign=28_1_2017_full&bucket=email-blast-28_1_2017_full&utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=blast2017-01-28

c) City to Sea

City to Sea began in 2014 to gather a collaboration of local organisations, marine biologists & campaigners in a pub to tackle plastic pollution. Fed up and generally devastated by the amount of plastic litter flowing from Bristol into the Severn Estuary, the group began looking at how they could phase out single-use plastics and hopefully create a replicable model that could be shared with other coastal and river based cities.

They set up officially as a Community Interest Company (not for profit) early in 2016 and are funded by a mixture of sponsorship and donations.

Campaign ‘Switch the Stick’ launched in September 2016 and built upon the work already instigated by Scottish charity, Fidra, who'd been running the Cotton Bud Project. It was agreed that City to Sea would run a public-facing campaign to garner consume support ... which worked!

Alongside ‘Switch the Stick’, ‘Refill’ (<http://refill.org.uk/>) is their campaign to reduce the amount of plastic waste caused by single-use drinks bottles. Its aim is to promote free tap water and bottle refills available in shops, cafes and businesses on high streets, transport hubs and anywhere with a safe tap – across the UK. They have launched the Refill rewards app to incentivise refills and reduce the amount of single-use plastics in circulation. Every time you refill you get points, which convert into refillable goodies that last a lifetime.

Other information

(1) BBC: Plastic bottle litter on beaches up 43%, conservationists say:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35878760>

(2) The Telegraph: Plastic bottle 'tax' could be introduced to tackle waste:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/20/plastic-bottle-tax-could-introduced-tackle-waste/>

(3) The Guardian: England plastic bag usage drops 85% since 5p charge introduced:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/30/england-plastic-bag-usage-drops-85-percent-since-5p-charged-introduced>

(4) The Guardian: Tesco and Sainsbury's ban plastic cotton buds:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/nov/30/tesco-and-sainsburys-ban-plastic-cotton-buds-to-cut-waste>



Fulmars received recently for the North Sea monitoring study:

far left: two birds from East Yorkshire (Flamborough), found in May 2016;

left: a bird from Lossiemouth, East Scotland, found in March 2016.

Photos by D M Turner