Big Beach Clean-up Report 2013

Protecting our seas, shores and wildlife

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Thank you!

Your help made the Big Beach Clean-up 2013 an extraordinary event!

The second Marine Conservation Society Big Beach Clean-up, supported by Marks & Spencer, turned out to be even bigger and better than the first... thanks to you!

The event, as part of the three year Forever Fish partnership between the high street giant and the UK’s leading marine charity, mobilised thousands of people at more beaches and waterways than the year before, resulting in masses of litter being taken away from our beaches, rivers and canals.

Between April 22nd and April 28th, 9,000 volunteers cleaned up over 110 beaches and 50 waterways across the UK.

By highlighting where litter ends up we can, with your help, stop it getting there in the first place.

Lots of you took part in the Big Beach Clean-up for the second year running – so we know you like it! There’s another one planned for next year and we’re already looking forward to the event and seeing many of you again.

To find out more about the partnership between MCS and M&S visit: www.mcsuk.org/foreverfish or www.marksandspencer.com/foreverfish

In the meantime, if you want even more beach cleaning excitement, visit www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch and find out about getting involved in Beachwatch Big Weekend between September 20th -23rd 2013.

In this report you can see how much beach litter was found during the 2013 Big Beach Clean-up, the weird stuff that volunteers discovered and just how many items of rubbish were actually picked up by you – our amazing volunteers!
Here’s what 5,786 fabulous beach clean volunteers achieved cleaning over 110 beaches during this year's Big Beach Clean-up.

- 16,487 kilograms of litter cleared
- 2,538 bags of rubbish filled
- 92 kilometres of beaches cleared
- 163,987 items of litter picked up

N.B. This is for beaches only and does not include the waterways.
It wasn’t just beaches though – many people were out cleaning waterways too... so the total figures for beaches and the inland waterways were: 30,000kg of rubbish, 4000 bags of litter and over 300km walked and cleared. You’re amazing!

**Top ten items found**

1. All sizes of plastic bits and pieces
2. Crisp/sweet/lolly/sandwich wrappers
3. Glass
4. Angling fishing line
5. Paper
6. Polystyrene
7. Plastic drinks bottles
8. Cloth
9. Metal
10. Plastic carrier bags
You won’t believe some of the funny stuff we found on the beaches. The trouble is it might be a laugh to pick up a pirate kite for instance, but if you’re a seabird or a turtle, getting entangled in it could lead to a slow and agonising death.

So if you’re missing some underpants, a pair of Crocs or your car number plate – we may just have picked them up!

8 pairs of underpants
3 tents
3 car bumpers
3 car exhausts
2 car clutches
1 car number plate
Pre-decimal penny
Pirate kite
Baby car seat
HM Prison toothbrush
Pitch fork
Trampoline
Fire extinguisher
Dressing gown
Pair of Crocs
Toilet bowl
Monopoly house

And of course a kitchen sink!
Louisa & Anna Jones, volunteers at the Birkdale clean-up

We really enjoyed helping clean the beach and were amazed how much we all gathered at the end and were so glad that the weather didn’t seem to deter people from volunteering their time.

Gail Simpson at Castlerock

Thanks to MCS for a fantastic morning, very informative, friendly staff, beautiful food provided by M&S and a great job completed to make a difference to our local beach.

Graham Newing, Sedgemoor District Council

The Big Beach Clean-up was a great success! Your team worked hard in collecting the debris, bagging and weighing the rubbish collected and left it in a tidy area for council cleaners to remove. They were very professional and a delightful bunch to meet! We all look forward to working with you again.

Sera Pritchard Manager at Lytham St. Anne’s M&S store

Just wanted to let you know what a fabulous day we had over in Lytham! We had over 90 people, most of which were from the local area. Lots of families came to join us too! The weather was not kind, but our incredible people managed to collect 308kg - over 30 bags of rubbish!
Thanks to you our beaches are cleaner!

See you next year
Join MCS today and be part of the movement to save our seas

Our wonderful seas, shores and wildlife are under threat and we can’t care for our seas without support from people just like you. Our vital conservation work is largely funded by the public, and it’s thanks to this support that MCS continues to speak up for our seas.

You can help us achieve so much by joining our membership community for as little as £2.75 a month.

We’ll send you a welcome pack and keep you up to date with our quarterly magazine. You’ll have lots more opportunities to meet other members and get involved in volunteering and campaigning.

Become a member online at www.mcsuk.org/membership or call us on 0300 3300 704

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