



# CORNISH PLASTIC POLLUTION COALITION

## 2018 REPORT

Data from members' beach-cleans and litter picks

## Background

The Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition comprises over 50 environmental organisations, local marine conservation groups, beach cleaning groups and marine science experts, collectively representing tens of thousands of people in Cornwall and beyond.

The main areas of work of the CPPC are:

- to raise awareness of the issue of marine litter and plastic pollution around our coastline by working with community groups, interested schools, and other organisations who wish to engage with the CPPC;
- to informally improve information exchange and coordination between organisations and volunteers involved in marine litter and plastic pollution in Cornwall;
- to specifically highlight the issue of balloon debris in Cornwall;
- to raise the issue of marine litter and plastic pollution with identified businesses and organisations and try to persuade them to change their practices to more environmentally friendly methods / products.

Delia Webb and Claire Wallerstein are currently the Co-ordinators and key contacts for the CPPC:

Delia: [deliawebb@btinternet.com](mailto:deliawebb@btinternet.com) 01736 787191 / 07736400960      Claire: [claire.wallerstein@gmail.com](mailto:claire.wallerstein@gmail.com) 01752 823308 / 07815 567234

At the end of 2018, the CPPC asked members for data relating to their beach-cleaning and litter-picking activities in order to establish the true picture, and economic value of this type of voluntary work in the Duchy. This report details the statistical data received from those groups and individuals who keep such records of their activities, but is by no means a comprehensive list as many groups do not keep formal recordings of their work.

## Summary of Results

In the 12 months of 2018 a massive **48,066 volunteer hours** were contributed to environmental work in Cornwall. This equates to an **economic value of £376,357**.

## Tabulated 2018 Volunteer Statistics

Name of Group	No of Members	No of Beach-Cleans/ Litter Picks Organised	Rubbish removed (sackfuls)	No People Engaged (Direct and Social Media)	Volunteer Hours Total
Beach Guardian	23	55	220	5,000+	1261
Clean Cornwall	7057	287	1632	7057	15,892
Clean Ocean Sailing	89	62	162	89	870
Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust	347	99	700	7000+	953
Crackington Crew	30	57	157	700+	86
Falmouth Marine CG	5	3	50	155	305
Fathoms Free	30	32	90	2000+	1540
Final Straw Cornwall	25	100+	300	11,000	1866
Friends of Fowey Estuary	40	2 major + 365 daily	40	400+	328
Friends of Par Beach	170	8	50	100	200
Friends of Portheras Cove	25	3 major + 365 daily	395	5000+	1586
IOS Wildlife Trust	8	133	550	3315+	6630
Looe Marine Conservation Group	20	25	35	1000+	350
Mount's Bay Marine Group	15	2 major + 365 daily	183	150+	650
Newquay Marine Group	165	12	65	800	1720
One Bag Beach Clean	20	6	28	70	208
PF Falmouth	118	32	300	20,000+	4168
PF Helford/Helford VMCA	See One Bag Beach Clean + Clean Ocean Sailing				
Polzeath BeachCare	25	14	187	200+	750
Polzeath Marine Conservation Group	21	(see Polzeath BC)	(See Polzeath BC)	3000+	3750
Rame Peninsula BeachCare	100	17	281	4000+	2058
RSPB (Cornwall)	30	12	150	30	340
Smartie Lids on the Beach	5	200	25	100	600
Transition Truro/Transition Falmouth	1	daily	32	500+	100
Widemouth Task Force	100	14	495	3,400+	1855
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8439</b>		<b>6127</b>		<b>48,066</b>

*Economic value of total volunteer hours in 2018 based on the UK Minimum Wage (£7.83) 48,066 x £7.83 = £376,357*

*Total rubbish removed and recycled or disposed of = 6127 sackfuls which is equivalent to 61,270kg or 61.3 tonnes*



## Rame Peninsula BeachCare – Our Highlights of 2018

- Winning the Ministry of Defence's prestigious Sanctuary magazine environmental project award in recognition of the work done with our dedicated microplastics separation machine to remove well over 10 million industrial plastic pellets from just a small section of a local beach
- Participating in the 'Sail Against Plastic' expedition to the remote archipelago of Svalbard, just 600 miles from the North Pole, to survey and raise awareness about the scale of plastic pollution in this remote environment
- Taking our marine debris artworks, made by local artists, to major events at the Royal Geographical Society and Excel in London to bring the plastic pollution issue to a wider audience
- In-depth investigation into the huge losses of bio-beads - microplastic pellets used as a filter in wastewater treatment plants - and their impact on beaches and the marine environment in Cornwall and beyond, released as a report and signed by 35 marine conservation groups as members of the Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition
- Taking part in a challenging two-day, 38-mile sponsored coast path walk from St Ives to Mousehole to raise over £3,000 for British Divers Marine Life Rescue to support their work to rescue and rehabilitate stranded seals and other marine mammals (several of our volunteers are also trained BDMLR marine mammal medics)



## Friends of Portheras Cove – Our Highlights of 2018

- Recognition of the work of FoPC by St Just Town Council in being awarded 'Citizen of the Year'
- Joint organisation of beach clean at Marazion for CWT's 'Love Your Beach Day' (with Mounts Bay Marine Group) February 14<sup>th</sup> – 76 volunteers spent 2 hrs picking up 3.59kg recyclable material, and 78.45kg other rubbish
- Summer holiday project "Litter's Not Just Plastic" - 66 items of abandoned clothing picked up by our volunteers during the 8 weeks of July & August and comprising: 29 socks, 8 underpants/knickers, 6 foot-ware items, 5 hats, 5 shorts, 4 swimming costumes, 3 T Shirts, 1 pair leggings, 1 wetsuit, 1 bib, 1 scarf, 1 hanky, 1 wristband – collection of all clothing items found on the coves during July & August. Extensive media coverage by BBC Radio Cornwall, Cornwall Live, WMN, The Cornishman and Pirate FM
- Joint project with Cornwall Council, Trinity Lighthouse, and private landowners around Pendeen Watch to tackle massive issues of illegal overnight parking & camping (and associated waste/debris/pollution) on car park areas around Boat Cove. Positive result in that new signage has been paid for and erected, and leaflets with details of local official campsites will be being distributed to anyone found flouting these over the coming season. Participated in Vinny Setzlers film 'Coalesce' and BBC 'Inside Out' SW programme (featuring the removal of flytipped rubbish at Liberty Zawn by the Carbis Bay Crew)



Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust



## IOS Wildlife Trust – Our Highlights of 2018

- Bethany Community Church, Harpenden have pledged to stop using balloons following us making contact when one of their balloons ended up on a Scilly beach
- A local youngster asked to have homemade packed lunches over school packed lunches (when he much prefers school food!) for a day trip to an uninhabited Island saying that the school ones would be wrapped in plastic, where as his home one wouldn't, and he didn't want cause harm to any of our bird or marine life
- A lot of positive feedback and engagement from both residents and visitors regarding all events, activities and awareness raising
- Talking to more than 100 visiting Exeter University Students regarding Marine Plastics and the ongoing work of the Trust across the Islands
- Coastal Clean-up for Cupcakes went off without a hitch, was well attended, we cleared 150kg of Marine Debris including a huge piece of netting which has now been repurposed, and the cupcakes were amazing!?

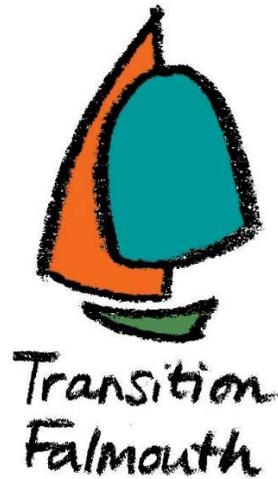


giving  
nature  
a home



### RSPB Cornwall – Our Highlights of 2018

- RSPB has nature reserves in Cornwall (Marazion and Hayle Estuary (Lelant, Carnsew, Copperhouse Creek and Porth Kidney Sands) and one regular activity is litter picking/beach cleans at these sites
- We carried out 12 big organised cleans during the year
- We recycled over a third of the litter collected
- We are working with Biffa who collect the rubbish from the RSPB for free saving us money



## Transition Falmouth – Our Highlights of 2018

- Events organised in conjunction with Transition Truro - plastic awareness raising stands at Garden Truro (3 days); Truro Day and UN Exhibition in Truro Cathedral all promoting reusable water bottles and coffee cups
- Numerous short beach and foreshore and hedgerow cleans, focusing primarily on collecting single-use plastic bottles, metal containers and glass bottles and sending online reports on "wild bottle sightings" to the Marine Conservation Society to be used as evidence towards MCS's campaign for a Deposit Return System for England/UK
- Ran a "Guess the Number of Bottle Tops in the Bag" Competition at two of the events which attracted over 100 participants with 6 eventual winners of a free reusable water bottle each
- Compostable Cup Challenge submitted to UoE/TEVI/Centre for Circular Economy on behalf of Transition Truro and Falmouth and Plastic Free Falmouth designed to address confusion over issues of "compostability"



## Friends of Par Beach – Our Highlights of 2018

- 2 Major Beachcleans
- 3 Pacific Oyster Surveys with CWT
- 6 Workparties controlling Invasive species
- Building of an Otter Holt in the wetland area
- 1 Plant Identification Walk
- 1 Bat Walk



### Newquay Marine Group – Our Highlights of 2018

- We created a life size Sperm Whale made in the sand for Marine Week in August with 80 real plastic bags in its stomach (replicating an actual story in The Guardian). We made a short film about it too
- Being accepted by 5Gyres to their Trawlshare programme as part of a coalition group Cornwall Marine Microplastic Researchers, and receiving the trawl from America! We have completed 14 trawls so far
- The rejuvenation of Harbour Heights, including three superb information boards, plants, new flooring, painting and benches
- Starting up Newquay Cleaner Seas with CWT and the EA. Spray painting yellow Fish with school children in the roads to mark drains that lead directly to the sea
- Our Christmas Quiz and drinks!!



### Smartie Lids on the Beach – Our Highlights of 2018

- Beach cleans followed by workshops with school children
- Hosting Norwegians Kari and Astor and helping them coordinate meeting up with fellow Cornish beach cleaners
- Being asked to sell my art at The National Trust visitors centre Boscastle
- Third year of exhibiting at Boscastle National Trust Cafe. Spreading the word of marine debris and how to reduce your use of single use plastic at fairs and markets this year



### Falmouth Marine Conservation – Our Highlights of 2018

- Highlights are just all working together, getting people involved and removing all the rubbish from our beautiful beaches and park areas
- We have worked out a good strategy where we label the bags and have each bag manned by one of our team
- We then ask the public to sort the rubbish into the bags. This is great for educating the public on what we are finding and also enables us to recycle as much as possible



# PLASTIC FREE FALMOUTH SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



## Plastic Free Falmouth – Our Highlights of 2018

- Seashanty Festival recycling and reusable cup scheme and uptake. Raised profile and huge amounts of money for RNLI 20,000 cups recycled, 3,500 cups sold
- Uptake of Refill and Final Straw ubiquitous across town and developing our business sign up
- Engagement across the whole community, council, businesses, Events, schools, cleans, community groups, on the street- everywhere we go is packed and our events sell out. The level of requests and engagement from diverse factions in Falmouth is astounding.
- Increasing and developing our beach clean management and waste routes to minimise landfill/incinerator
- getting Falmouth Fire Service plastic free and their own refill bottles, with hopes this can roll out across county



### Fathoms Free – Our Highlights of 2018

- Devon County Show
- Ocean Plastics Solutions Day hosted by Surfers Against Sewage with HRH Duke of Cornwall attending
- Lost fishing net (whole) retrieved at Bizzies Reef - Falmouth
- Lost fishing net (whole) retrieved at the Eddystone Lighthouse
- Lost angling gear (2 dumpy bags full) retrieved at Hopes Nose



### Final Straw Cornwall – Our Highlights of 2018

- In March 2018 we created a searchable map of all the businesses signed up to the Final Straw Cornwall
- In March 2018 we held a straw amnesty at Expo West where we took 35,000 straws out of circulation to be recycled and remade into a worktop
- In June 2018 we raised over £3500 with matched funding of £1000 from West Country Fruit Sales
- In Nov 2018 we got all the businesses in Padstow (bar one), to go plastic straw free and be the first plastic straw free Cornish town
- Pat Smith, Founder of FSC completed 52 beach cleans in 2018 and this was covered by local and national press, and BBC's The One Show



### Polzeath VMCA/Polzeath BeachCare – Our Highlights of 2018

- Our highlights are the opening of the first two 'Water Bottle Refill Stations' on British beaches, one in Polzeath and one in Rock
- Our new aquarium in the marine centre which has been such a huge hit and had a snakelocks anemone cloning, a strawberry anemone ingesting two buoy barnacles in front of our horrified eyes and Clara the shore crab mounting
- The production of three educational wind breaks
- Being able offer a Plymouth university student a 3month placement during her Marine Biology degree
- The creating of our second rubbish sculpture a huge jellyfish which is displayed along with our first 'sharky' outside the marine centre and which have been the centre piece of hundreds of photos and an opening of many a conversation



### Looe MCG – Our Highlights of 2018

- Throw Jelly Not Balloons campaign – the LMCG pioneered efforts across Cornwall to persuade people NOT to throw water balloon bombs into rivers and the sea at water festivals and raft races. Our alternative, Agar Jelly is made from seaweed - so it's from the sea going back to the sea, with no harm to the environment but keeping the fun element for all
- Organising a big beach clean at Seaton to coincide with Wayne Dixon & Koda's visit during their litter picking walk around the UK
- Organising Free Easter rockpool rambles and Shoresearch surveys as well as major beach-cleans



### Widemouth Task Force – Our Highlights of 2018

- WTF providing all the environmental criteria required for the Blue Flag award and Seaside award applications for the 4th year in a row
- 30+ cetaceans/seals rescued by WTF members who are also BDMLR medics
- WTF being part of the successful sand dune restoration project
- WTF being part of the brilliant Ocean Recovery Project and recycling 80% of beach waste from organised cleans
- Hosting a beach clean for Environmental and engineering consultants WSP



### Mount's Bay Marine Group – Our Highlights of 2018

- Promoting ReFill in West Cornwall. Lots of businesses on board in Penzance and the surrounding area offering to refill bottles of water for free
- ReFill backed up with the sale of our own MBMG bottles
- February 14<sup>th</sup> 'Love Your Beach' day at Marazion. Big public beach clean organised in partnership with the Friends of Portheras Cove involving large numbers of public to clean up litter
- Summer snorkels in Marazion and Newlyn to educate about our underwater sea life
- Pacific Oyster control in Marazion



### Friends of Fowey Estuary – Our Highlights of 2018

- 2 estuary clean-ups
- 3 Pacific oyster bashes!
- 3 heronry surveys
- 6 dormouse surveys
- Educational sign grant
- Xmas supper!!



### Beach Guardian – Our Highlights of 2018

- 200 people turning up at Constantine Bay for World Oceans Day in June and being live on ITV News
- Emily appearing on Sky TV in her crisp packet dress and getting Walkers to start a recycling scheme
- Getting Nissan to allow their staff worldwide to be paid two days a year to volunteer
- Visiting Houses of Parliament in Westminster to take a beach and plastics to show to MPs
- Making Padstow “Plastic Free” and “Plastic Straw Free”



### Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust – Our Highlights of 2018

- 29 Stalls and 50 talks about wildlife and marine plastics during the year
- 7 tonnes of ghost gear removed
- Won a large grant of £19300 from the People's Postcode Lottery, Postcode Local Trust
- We have ended 2018 with an incredible three Rangers – our Seal Research Ranger Katie Bellman and our Creativity and Activity Ranger Emily Pollitt, and Discovery Ranger in the form of Marion Beaulieu all thanks to funding from World Animal Protection, National Trust and our incredible volunteer fundraising efforts and donations.
- The rescuing of entangled grey seal 'Lucky Star' after nearly 6 months of trying!



### Crackington Crew – Our Highlights of 2018

- 57 big organised beach-cleans as well as smaller daily pick-ups by individual members
- 1567kg of rubbish removed in the 12-month period
- Our volunteers were recognised for their work by being given a slap-up tapas meal, free of charge, at a local restaurant
- Our #2minuteBeachClean board is very popular with around 15-30 bags of rubbish being cleared each week
- And finally, we saw less rubbish overall in 2018 than in previous years!!



## Clean Cornwall – Our Highlights of 2018

- 7057 individuals involved in our registered beach-cleans
- Launch of incredibly successful 'Hold Tight' campaign in partnership with the Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition and Biffa. This project delivered free education workshops and an online resource pack to teach about the dangers of balloon pollution, and offer environmentally friendly alternatives to balloon releases
- Launch of 'Band Together' project – a free online pack of education resources to teach about the dangers of litter in relation to our dwindling hedgehog population
- Ongoing officer support, advice, and equipment loan administration, to voluntary groups across Cornwall to enable them to deliver beach-cleans, litter-picks, and education work.



**Helford  
Voluntary Marine  
Conservation Area**

**PLASTIC FREE  
HELFORD RIVER**  
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



### Clean Ocean Sailing (in association with PF Helford/Helford VMCA) – Our Highlights of 2018

- In September we organised a virtual worldwide flotilla for World Clean Up Day with an amazing response from all over the world
- We had a stall at Play Fest in Truro during August and had lots of fun activities as well as education opportunities for teaching about marine pollution
- Plastic Free picnic for the Royal Wedding in May
- 16,488 individual pieces of marine pollution removed for the seas during the past 12 months!!



Helford  
Voluntary Marine  
Conservation Area

PLASTIC FREE  
HELFDORD RIVER  
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



### One Bag Beach Clean (in association with PF Helford/Helford VMCA) - Our Highlights of 2018

- 6 Big beach cleans organised this year (around the Helford area)
- Ethical fair trade OBBC cotton bags launched and sold at local Farmer's Markets. Really enjoyed talking to people about the huge issue of plastics in the ocean and how everyone can do their bit. So easy to take a bag out walking and fill it up with some rubbish. (It doesn't have to be the beach) Profit from bag sales supporting Clean Ocean Sailing
- Working together, getting people involved and removing all the rubbish from our beautiful beaches and park areas. We have worked out a good strategy where we label the bags and have each bag manned by one of our team. We then ask the public to sort the rubbish into the bags. This is great for educating the public on what we are finding, and also enables us to recycle as much as possible
- Large items removed were: arm chair, bicycles, metal water tank, barbed wire, carpets, paint cans, canisters, shopping baskets