

## A summary of beach cleans from February 2020 – February 2021.

This year in **COVID** restrictions, Newquay Beach Care has accomplished:

- ✓ A total of 14 beach cleans (10 timetabled plus two flash mobs- Whipsiderry and North Qay and two responding to a specific request Polly Joke and Whipsiderry) This is the same as last year.
- ✓ Two beach cleans were cancelled during the first lockdown.
- ✓ We do not count how many bin bags we collect as we are now using buckets and reusable tote bags.
- ✓ We collected a total weight of 373kg (323 kg last year), and 3,446kg/**3.446 metric tonnes** over the past six years.
- ✓ All data used by Keep Britain Tidy and now Clean Cornwall and The Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition.
- ✓ Again, we have calculated our efforts into an economic value. Obviously, this will differ greatly from last year due to COVID restrictions on volunteer numbers and two beach clean cancellations. It is calculated as nos of volunteers x average number of hours x hourly living wage.  
So,  $76 \times 1 \times \pounds 8.21 = \pounds 623.96$  (then minimum wage went up to **£8.72 from 1 April 20**) so  $73 \times 1 \times 8.72 = \pounds 636.56$  (total nos volunteers **149**). A grand total of **£1,260.52**
- ✓ As with other years, but maybe more importantly than ever during COVID restrictions, we have lent our kit out a few times to individuals.
- ✓ All of our microplastics that we collected during our two-year. Trawlshare project are in the process of being analysed further using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy. This will tell us the different types of polymers we have. It is being carried out by The University of Exeter by Dr David Santillo. When we have these results, we are then hoping to have a paper published with the help of Dr Sarah Nelms!
- ✓ Engaged **149** people with beach cleans from February 2018 (last year 250 people).

- ✓ Made a video of the appalling litter at Watergate Bay car park which went viral. As a result of this, we helped reform Newquay Clean.
- ✓ We've been working closely in the summer with Land and Sea.
- ✓ We've been finding a lot of face masks during our litter picks. Particularly in the summer.

**Thank you to everyone who has helped!**

**In the Future:**

- On February 14<sup>th</sup> on Porth Beach, we will be participating in CWT Your Shore Beach Rangers, 'love your beach day' on Valentine's day (as we have done for the last two years).
- We will be conducting Strandline surveys on 13<sup>th</sup> March and August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We will be collecting data for MCS on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Comparing Years:**

Comparing years	Feb 2014 to Feb 15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-2021
Total nos of bags	200	139	127	293	118	No longer counting	
Total weight		1117kg	571kg	485	577.5	323kg	373kg
Average nos of volunteers		12.5	16	17.4	19.8	22 (total 309)	10.5
Economic Value						£2,537	£1260

The weight of litter collected this year was down compared to previous years but up from last year-despite less litter picks and people. This was due partly to the flash mob cleans which removed large pieces of very heavy rope and lobster pots and metal objects.

Our average number of volunteers that attend beach cleans has steadily **risen** year every year but not this year. We can absolutely put this down to COVID with two beach clean cancellations and restrictions on numbers.