

## A summary of beach cleans from February 2015 – February 2016.

Newquay Beach Care has organised 2 different types of beach cleans:

- **Group ones** (organised in advance) and sometimes to coincide with events.
- **Flashmob style** in a response to the amount of debris washed up by storms or if a beach is in need.

So far, Newquay Beach Care has accomplished:

- A total of 14 beach cleans (the same as last year).
- And collected an estimated 139 bin bags of debris (200 last year), but not including nets, ropes, tents, bits of metal and sparklers. This ties in with the bigger picture in the south west in general which has seen a reduction in bags of litter collected per hour per volunteer (see Neil Henbrow's report below).
- A total weight of 1117kg just over a tonne!
- All data sent to SAS (wasn't last year).
- The ghost netting we found on the beach was reported to Sue Sayer for her project.

Date	Beach	Event	Number of Bags	Weight of rubbish (approx.)	Number of people
2015					
Feb	none	none			
14th March	Watergate	organised	18 + large pieces of plastic and netting	100kg	27
11th April	Towan	organised	10 + 5 large pieces of metal. Tried to get 3 shopping trolleys.	80kg	20
9th May	Watergate	organised	11 + 1 large net	70kg	12
13th June	Towan	organised	12 + 3 bits large netting	75kg	15
11th July	Watergate	organised		7 51kg	6
17th July	Great Western	Flash mob collaboration		35 175kg	9
9th August	Towan	organised		16 80kg	16
12th September	Towan	organised	10 + large 4 person tent and contents	70kg	15
10th October	Watergate	organised	6 + huge net and rope monster	65kg	6
6th Nov	Porth	organised	6 + 300 sparklers (200 others were in buckets we provided)	70kg	12
8th November	Polly joke	flashmob	Several large chunks of netting	60kg	10
12th December	Towan	organised	7 + 1 xmas tree and pieces of metal	70kg	7
2016					
9th Jan	Porth		11 + large net and large plastics	111kg	17
13th Feb	Towan	Organised	6 + 6 peces of large metal	40kg	14
				total 1117kg	177
				average 79.79kg	average 12.46

### Other Newquay Beach Care News

Newquay beach care and Karandave produced 30 pooh signs which were put up at local beaches. This attracted other voluntary groups to buy them, as well as individuals. It made NBC £87.50 so far.

We bought a gazebo

We've met Prince Charles!

We supported Councillor James Mustoe in his proposal to introduce a ban of balloon and lantern releases in Cornwall- which went through!

Sparklers success- we provided metal buckets to dispose of sparklers better after Porth Fireworks. Need more next year.

We took part in a CWT sea search snorkel at Little Fistral and did our own at The Gazzele.

We collected and tested the orange water at Watergate Bay for Sue Sayer (Cornwall seal group). Could be why they get orange seals! The Environment Agency were involved and we found the water had super high levels of Cadmium and Zinc.

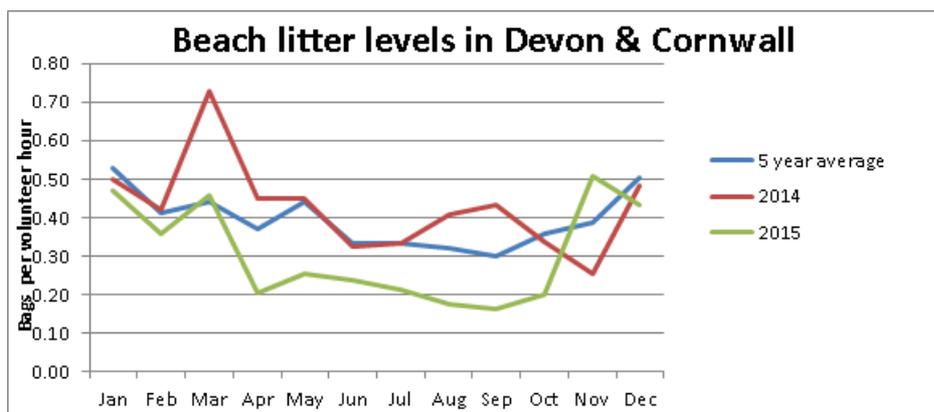
Repaired damaged pooh signs.

A huge thanks to all of our volunteers. It's always lovely to see and chat to you, and collectively, we do make a difference!

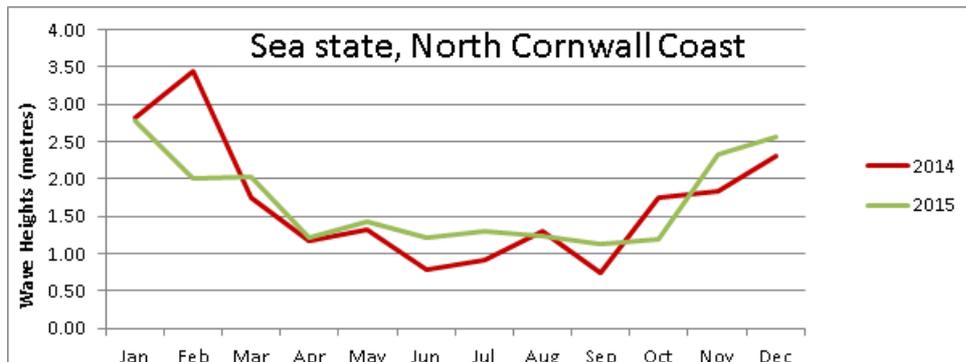
**Next clean is: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am at Watergate.**

### Report from Neil Henbrow (Keep Britain Tidy)

#### Looks at data gathered from Beach Care groups in Cornwall and Devon



Graph 1 illustrates bags of litter collected per volunteer hour for 2015, the previous year (2014) and the 5 year average stretching back to BeachCare's infancy (Jan 2011). We have discounted 2010 as we were not doing enough cleans to give a valid data set.



Graph 2 demonstrates the average monthly sea state for 2014 & 2015. It correlates with monthly changing litter amounts. If you refer to Graph 1, it is interesting to see that bigger winter seas usually mean more litter. This was especially prevalent after the storms of February 2014.

2015's litter quantities decreased, this was a big improvement on the previous year. Our beaches in the summer were cleaner than I have seen them in 5 years. We had lots of reports from volunteers that there was little marine litter. Why could this be? The weather has been a bit weird hasn't it? Summer saw grey skies and light to moderate northwest winds, which usually sends litter in from the Atlantic...but not last Summer. This December has been the warmest since 1910. Or is it that visitors are dropping less litter or are we are seeing less coming off boats? Are there complex external factors such as climate or gulf stream effecting things?

All these things aside, we are making progress! I feel volunteer groups have made a significant impact on the amount of litter. Many groups organise monthly events and are extremely responsive to when litter deposits on our beaches. The groups have been tackling marine litter around-the-clock. Removing it on their beach and also getting to more remote areas where litter accumulates stopping the in/out movement of litter with the tide.

Despite the improvements, I'm certainly not saying that the marine litter issue isn't a huge issue as we removed 10 tonnes last year from our stunning beaches. What I am saying that we are making a difference, keeping on top of it, not letting things get out of hand...