

# NURDLE —NEWS—

August 2016

## NURDLE HUNTING NEWS

**NURDLES ON THE BBC!** We had a visit from David Miller from BBC Scotland while we were doing our Clyde Nurdle Quest training. His finished piece was aired on BBC Scotland news on TV and on the radio, and highlighted both our nurdle hunt project and the steps industry can take to reduce spillage. You can find the article and video online [here](#).

**OUR MAP SPREADS ITS WINGS:** Since our humble beginnings on the Firth of Forth in 2013, our nurdle scope has expanded! We now have nurdle hunts reported to us from all over Scotland, the UK and even globally. Our supporter organisations are vital to spread the word and encourage more hunts. This is why we've asked key supporter organisations to embed interactive copies of our maps onto their websites. You can now find our map on the websites of [Fauna & Flora International](#) (FFI) and the [Marine Conservation Society](#) (MCS). We're hoping that more partner organisations around Europe will be



willing to host our map on their page, to spread the nurdle-word even further afield.

**THE CLYDE NURDLE QUEST—REPORT:** Our Clyde Nurdle Quest ran over 2 months from April-June. Our dedicated citizen scientists visited the same beach once a fortnight to see if nurdle numbers changed with time or weather conditions. Thanks to all their hard work, we now have >30 new nurdlehunt reports in the Clyde. Researcher Natalie Welden will be doing more detailed analysis of the data over the next few weeks with the hope of contributing to a scientific study on microplastics in the Clyde. Watch this space!



## OUR WORK WITH INDUSTRY

**CASE STUDY COMPANIES:** A number of new companies across the Firth of Forth have signed up to Operation Clean Sweep this year. This includes a pellet producer, several converters (plastics manufacturers) and a haulage and warehousing company. We are now in the process of collecting some case study information from these companies to find out how they've been getting on. Watch our website for more information coming soon!



John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing are one of our case study companies.

**A PELLET-LOSS WEBINAR:** Want to find out more about the issue of pellets in the environment, and what companies can do about it? We were honoured to host a webinar through IEMA (The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment). It is still available online to watch again, just follow [this link](#) to watch the presentation in full.



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## EU PELLET LOSS ACTION



We have been working closely with NGOs across Europe who are already doing lots to reduce pellet loss in their own countries, or want to get involved to do more. A meeting at Fauna & Flora International (FFI) headquarters in February allowed us to discuss the issue and how best to tackle it. One thing is clear—pellet pollution is widespread across many EU countries, but we can get far by working together! NGOs involved include [FFI](#), [Plastic Soup Foundation](#), [MCS](#), [Seas At Risk](#) and [Surfrider Foundation](#).

## COTTON BUD NEWS

**NEW BUDS COMING SOON** Fidra's other ongoing project, The Cotton Bud Project, is delighted that Waitrose will be stocking its new paper-stemmed cotton buds as early as next month! Look out too for new 'Bag it and Bin it, Don't Flush it' messaging on Asda's Little Angels cotton bud range, to be reintroduced after discussion with our project. While Fidra continues to liaise with other retailers to switch from plastic to paper cotton bud sticks, Johnson & Johnson are still on track to phase out plastic cotton bud sticks by the end of 2016!

*How can you help?* Visit [www.cottonbudproject.org.uk](http://www.cottonbudproject.org.uk) today and **Take the Pledge** to use paper-stemmed cotton buds! Or tweet us your cotton bud pics with [#cottonbudproject](https://twitter.com/cottonbudproject)



## NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

We are proud to support a number of great projects tackling marine litter. This section features news from projects we are proud to promote:



Have  
You  
Got  
The  
Bottle?

**HAVE YOU GOT THE BOTTLE?** We are all too aware of the huge impact litter has on marine wildlife and our beaches. The Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch findings show the amount of litter found on British beaches has more than doubled in the last twenty years. In Scotland, 14% of that litter is drinks containers. This is why we have signed up as partners of 'Have You Got The Bottle?' Along with a coalition of nearly 30 partner organisations, they campaign for the introduction of a deposit return system for drinks packaging in Scotland. Forty countries and regions around the world already have highly effective deposit return systems, where a small deposit is paid when purchasing a drink, then repaid when the empty drinks container is returned.

## AND FINALLY...

**HELP US SPREAD THE NURDLE-WORD!** We have an exciting new video showing people exactly how to hunt for nurdles. You can find it on [facebook](#) and on [youtube](#). Please like it, share it and embed it on your websites!

**TWEET US!** [@greatnurdler](#) [#nurdlehunt](#) [@FidraTweets](#) [#cottonbudproject](#)



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