



Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust

research education conservation

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PRESS RELEASE

HWDT Spring Clean in Tobermory

A group of volunteers, including staff from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) and Mary MacGregor, spent Sunday 27th March cleaning away the litter behind the Aros Hall in Tobermory as part of the national campaign 'Spring Clean Scotland'. Nationwide, volunteers were encouraged to help clear up locations where rubbish had become an issue. In all, approximately eleven bags of litter were collected and then picked up by Argyll and Bute Council the following day. Morven Summers, Volunteer Coordinator, says "It was great to get stuck in and Spring Clean behind the Aros Hall, the difference afterwards was a great reward." Anyone can get involved with the campaign and work towards a cleaner country. Details about cleans near you or ideas on how to organise one can be found at the website

www.keepsotlandbeautiful.com



Marine litter is an issue HWDT takes seriously. Beach cleans are organized throughout the year to stop litter entering the marine environment, and volunteers help us annually with the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch event. All litter is recorded during cetacean research surveys to provide an estimate of litter density in the Hebrides. Marine wildlife can become entangled in litter, such as rope and plastic strapping, and there is evidence of this in our minke whale photo-ID catalogue. Animals also ingest marine litter when they mistake items, such as plastic bags, for prey. Gemma Cave, HWDT's Education Officer, says 'We have produced a Marine Litter Teaching Resource to educate school students about the causes and consequences of marine litter. We hope this will encourage more responsible attitudes towards litter and recycling that will ultimately improve the health of our oceans.' Some of these resources are available for free on our website, and high schools can contact HWDT to receive the full CD resource.