

PIPELINE

The Journal of Surfers Against Sewage

ISSUE 96 | SPRING 2015

ENVIRONMENT

Microplastics,
Major Concern

WAVES

The Uniqueness
of Waves

COMMUNITY

Making Skateboards
from Fishing Nets





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The Journal of Surfers Against Sewage
Issue 96 | Spring 2015

Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) is an environmental charity protecting the UK's oceans, waves and beaches for all to enjoy safely and sustainably, via community action, campaigning, volunteering, conservation, education and scientific research.

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Surfers Against Sewage 25th Anniversary



2015 marks Surfers Against Sewage's 25th anniversary, providing us with a great opportunity to reflect on past achievements, but more importantly, to shine a spotlight on the urgent environmental challenges ahead. The last quarter of a century has seen Surfers Against Sewage evolve from a highly publicised single-issue campaign group to a fully-fledged environmental charity, working on increasingly diverse, complex and challenging marine conservation issues.

Hugo Tagholm took over as Chief Executive of **Surfers Against Sewage** at the tail end of 2008. At the time he was already on the voluntary board of trustees and had been involved with the organisation since its earliest days back in the early 90s, either as a member, supporting campaigner or, even once, by competing in their Surf To Save competition up at Polzeath.

Looking forward to continued evolution & impact.

The organisation has had to adapt to tackle these new, sometimes global threats, developing ever more sophisticated environmental initiatives, partnerships and projects. After 25 years, 'Surfers Against Sewage' has in fact become somewhat of a misnomer, failing to encapsulate the full range of issues we work on or the diversity of the community we represent.

This year we hope to create an even sharper focus on today's key marine conservation issues, from marine litter to climate change, coastal development to health and wellbeing.

We'll be amplifying our call for a 50% reduction of UK beach litter by 2020 and building the road map of activity to help achieve this. We'll be working with communities to empower, train and mobilise over 10,000 coastal volunteers. We'll be calling for greater restrictions on the thousands of sewage discharges our beaches are subjected to annually. We'll be demanding better protection of our coastline from inappropriate coastal developments that destroy habitats, waves and wildlife. We'll take your voice to Parliament as part of our Protect Our Waves All Party Parliamentary Group, to call for legislative change and improved protection for the coastal places we all love and enjoy. We'll be working with Europe's leading scientists to explore the

emerging health impacts of poor bathing water quality. We'll be highlighting the catastrophic implications of unabated climate change for coastlines, surfing environments and coastal communities worldwide. We'll be bringing together the world's enviro-surf community for the Global Wave Conference.

On behalf of the trustees and the team, I'd like to thank you for being part of the community taking action to protect oceans, waves, wildlife, beaches and surf environments for everyone. Your commitment as a Surfers Against Sewage member ensures that we can continue to develop and deliver progressive environmental initiatives with a real and lasting legacy. The conservation of the world's natural environments is a continuous task and we need to remain vigilant, agile and active in the struggle for an ocean free from pollution, plastic and poison.

See you in the water,



Hugo Tagholm
Chief Executive



DISCARDED
NETS
KILL FISH,
BIRDS AND
DOLPHINS FOR
GENERATIONS



TS *

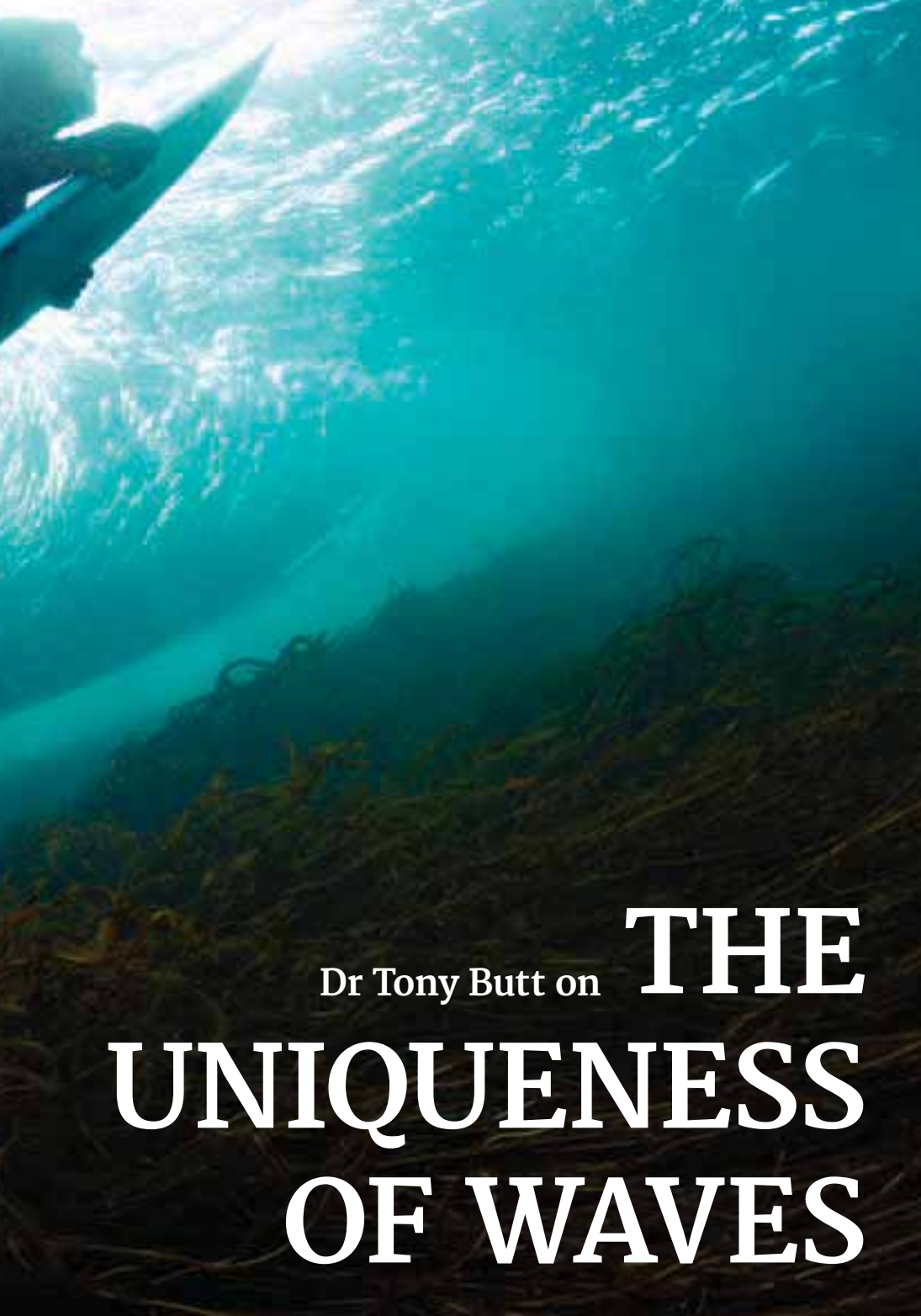
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TWO LIFETIMES

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MARINE LITTER
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Finisterre rider Noah Lane duckdives over a kelp-covered reef.
Photo Al Mackinnon



Dr Tony Butt on **THE**
UNIQUENESS
OF WAVES

“We still haven’t become mature enough to think of ourselves as only a tiny part of a vast and incredible universe. Man’s attitude toward Nature is today critically important simply because we have now acquired a fateful power to alter and destroy Nature. But man is a part of Nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.”

RACHEL CARSON 1962

For the last decade or so I’ve been intimately involved in trying to stop surf spots being destroyed by coastal-intervention schemes. In 2009, SAS set up the Protect Our Waves campaign to raise awareness of threats to surf spots. Surfers Against Sewage believes that waves and surf spots deserve to be seen as part of UK heritage and should be afforded greater recognition and protection through political debate and legislation. SAS is working hard to raise the public awareness of these natural resources, the environmental, physical and geological factors that create waves and how they are integral to coastal ecosystems and can help support thriving, sustainable and economically successful coastal communities around the UK.

Most of the time the people who destroy or degrade surf spots believe that the only people to lose out are a small

bunch of surfers. However, there are several reasons why waves are important for everybody, not just for surfers. If we can make people understand those reasons, we’ll have a better chance of persuading them not to destroy surf spots.

I’m going to start with an argument that has been used a lot in the past, based on the idea that a surf spot is worth money to a local community. Coastal developers and politicians tend to find the ‘intrinsic’ value of natural things hard to understand. They usually only understand the concept of enjoyment if it is bought with money.

For example, for the people living in some coastal town, their major source of fun might be watching football on TV, drinking beer or owning a new car – just like most of the population. If that town has a good surf spot, many surfers might come and spend their money in the bars,

Dr. Tony Butt has a PhD in Physical Oceanography from the University of Plymouth, and worked part time as a research fellow with the Coastal Processes Research Group. He has published 16 papers in scientific journals and over 200 other articles on waves and the coastal environment in non-scientific magazines.

restaurants and shops, which brings income to the local population. Take away the surf spot and the surfers won't come any more; the local businesses lose out and the people who work there will have less money to spend on football, beer or cars. Therefore, destroy a surf spot and you might stop a lot of people having fun.

A more direct way that non-surfers might get pleasure out of surf spots is to look at those surf spots as unique natural phenomena, 'wonders of the world' just like mountains, waterfalls or atmospheric phenomena that are considered valuable to humanity just because of their uniqueness. For example, all the factors that have to come together to make a spot like, say, the Hawaiian big-wave spot Jaws break the way it does are not found anywhere else on the planet. Even though the coastal geology – the 'infrastructure' – is already there, the wave still won't break unless you have exactly the right swell and wind conditions. This makes it just as unique as Everest, Victoria Falls or the Aurora Borealis.

As surfers we already know that – we just need to convince everybody else. Maybe with the recent boom in big-wave surfing and tow-surfing, people will start to realize that surf spots such as Nazaré are highly valuable from a spectator point of view. However, it would be rather arrogant to state that the only useful reason that ocean waves exist is to give us all fun, surfers and non-surfers alike. It would also be rather naïve to state that they are some redundant appendage of Nature serving no apparent purpose in the grand scheme of things.

Just like everything in Nature, waves evolved to have a purpose and to function alongside all the other working parts of the planet and just like everything else, if we interfere with them too much, we might put things out of balance.

In a similar way to the atmospheric circulation and the ocean currents, waves contribute to the energy balance of planet. Oceanic swells are messengers of energy. Although they don't actually carry water, they transfer enormous amounts of energy from one side of the globe to the other, which helps to maintain the natural heat balance of the planet. The total amount of energy continuously being converted by waves is approximately five terawatts, or 5,000,000,000,000 Joules of energy converted every second. Just to get that into perspective, it is enough to power a row of ten-watt bulbs strung out from here to the Moon and back 100 times.

Waves also control the mixing of the water in the top part of the ocean and how far down that mixing goes. The mixed layer is very important because it transfers huge quantities of heat energy between the ocean and atmosphere, and helps to control the temperature of coastal zones. Then, when the waves break, they transfer energy to the coastal material, which drives the continuous re-shaping of the shoreline: the coastal morphodynamics. The coastal system is highly 'intelligent' with feedback loops and tipping points, still poorly understood by scientists. Interfere with the waves and you will change the coastal morphodynamics in unpredictable ways. →



“Natural surf breaks should be treated as world heritage sites, and should never be destroyed no matter what the reason... we really can’t allow any existing surf breaks to be taken down, for whatever reason”

YVON CHOUINARD FOUNDER & CEO OF PATAGONIA, INC.

Wave energy is extremely important for the biology of the ocean. Near the coast the shoaling and breaking waves drive currents which stir up nutrients essential for feeding coastal life-forms such as barnacles or kelp. For example, certain species of kelp have evolved to live in the breaker zones of areas with consistent, large surf, where the constant flow of water under the surface enables them to absorb nutrients. Interfere with the waves and you interfere with that flow of water, which means the kelp won’t grow properly. If the kelp doesn’t grow properly, a whole range of other life-forms in the coastal ecosystem will be affected.

So, as you can see, it’s all linked. If you interfere with the waves you will do much more than just stop a few ‘barefoot hippies’ from doing an apparently useless activity. And you will do more than take away some tourist income from a

coastal town. You might permanently destroy a marvel of Nature made possible by a unique combination of circumstances – something as unique as, say, the Grand Canyon.

Finally, if you interfere with the waves you will put natural systems out of balance, which will then start to bite back at us. You will almost certainly affect the morphology of the coastline and the life-forms that live there and you might even start to affect the energy balance of the planet.

If you don’t think that’s true or possible, just think about global warming. We have already spectacularly succeeded in altering the chemical composition of the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels and removing rain forests. We crossed the threshold some time ago without realizing and look at the consequences we’re now starting to see. ☻

MICROPLASTICS,



MAJOR PROBLEM

Plastic debris is a widespread pollutant of the marine environment. Step on to any beach around the world and you would be hard pushed to not find any plastic washed ashore. Not only is this plastic an eyesore, but it also poses a distinct threat to marine life. However, research is now suggesting that it is microscopic sized plastic, the plastic we don't readily spot that we should be really concerned about, as **Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)** scientists **Dr Pennie Lindeque** and **Dr Matthew Cole** explain.

Plastic in our society and in our seas

Over the past 60 years there has been a rapid growth in plastic production, with approximately 300 million tonnes of plastic being manufactured globally each year. Plastic is an inexpensive and durable material with countless applications of benefit to society. However, plastic is increasingly used to manufacture single-use, throwaway products such as food packaging and drinks bottles, or to replace natural materials traditionally used in fishing gear, fabrics, and as exfoliates in personal care products. Every year, millions of tonnes of this plastic debris are discarded. Through improper waste disposal, coastal recreation, fishing and the release of wastewater effluent, a vast amount of plastic enters the marine environment. Here it can take decades or centuries to degrade and as a result this plastic litter is emerging as both a threat to the oceans and a major management challenge for society.

Most familiar are the large items of plastic litter, washed up and concentrated on the backs of beaches or floating at the sea surface. The risks that this larger plastic debris pose to marine life are well documented: turtles eating plastic bags instead of jellyfish, seals entangled in netting or birds with a gut content of

plastic bottle tops and lighters. However, in recent years it is the threat that smaller, microscopic plastic litter – termed “microplastics” – poses to marine life that has been of growing concern.

Microplastics

Microplastics are microscopic plastic beads, fragments and fibres less than 5 mm in diameter, although they can be as small as 1/1000th of a millimetre. They are formed from the degradation of larger plastic litter through exposure to sun and abrasion, or by the action of washing synthetic nylon or polyester clothing which may release thousands of plastic fibres into wastewater. Other microplastics are manufactured to be of a microscopic size, such as small plastic resin pellets, known as nurdles or mermaid's tears, used to manufacture plastic goods and extremely small plastic beads increasingly being used in everyday products like exfoliating facial scrubs, shower gels and tooth-pastes.

Microplastic debris has been identified in the water and sediments of marine ecosystems across the globe, with recent conservative estimates suggesting there is currently over 5 trillion bits of plastic floating within our oceans. In Plymouth Sound, for example, we recently →

Large items of plastic litter are a common sight on beaches around the globe, but the smaller, microscopic size fraction is of equal concern to scientists.

Right The pristine looking beach at Sedgewell Sands, Bigbury. It's not until you look closely that the problem of microplastics become obvious.

identified 0.27 bits of microplastic per cubic metre, but these concentrations can be far higher following heavy rainfall which flushes out litter in streams and wastewater into the sea.

What problems do microplastics pose?

Owing to their widespread abundance and small size, the concern is that these microplastics can be ingested by marine life. At Plymouth Marine Laboratory we have been investigating how susceptible marine organisms are to these microscopic pollutants. Our studies focus largely on zooplankton, which describe a group of animals that float and drift in the surface layers of our seas and which have a vital role in marine ecosystems. In particular, we have con-

ducted experiments on one of the most important and numerous types of zooplankton: the copepods. Copepods are tiny crustaceans, a bit like shrimp, and are one of the most abundant animals on the planet (it's estimated that there are 1,347,000,000,000,000,000 of them in the ocean at any one time). As primary consumers, close to the base of the food chain, they eat tiny marine plants known as phytoplankton; they subsequently pass this energy up the food web via predators such as commercially important fish larvae and whales.

Results of on-going research at PML

Our research has demonstrated that a range of zooplankton, including copepods, the larvae of bivalves (mussels,



oysters etc.) and juvenile decapods (crabs, lobsters etc), all have the capacity to eat microplastics. Tiny plastics can also get trapped on the appendages of these animals, potentially affecting their movement and ability to detect predators and prey. Although ingested microplastics can eventually pass through the guts of these animals, there is a concern that plastics eaten by these primary consumers might be transferred up through the marine food chain, ending up in food destined for human consumption. The potential risk to food security, and thereby human health, has led regulators to call for better understanding of the fate and effects of microplastic debris on marine life.

In copepods, this plastic diet has been shown to reduce the amount of ‘real food’ these animals eat. Over time, microplas-

tic exposed copepods slowly starve, meaning they have less energy to grow, reproduce and survive. Owing to their importance within marine food webs, this could have repercussions for animals that rely on copepods as prey.

Wider microplastic research

Microplastics have now been found in the stomachs of over 200 different species of marine animal, including seabirds, fish, shellfish and barnacles. In these animals, plastic debris can result in gut blockages, heightened immune response and a loss of energetic reserves. There is also growing evidence that plastic debris can act like a magnet to other pollutants (like pesticides and industrial contaminants) present within the water; if eaten, there is concern such plastics might release these toxic compounds to the animal. →



Microplastics are a growing concern but we can all play our part

Although research into microplastics is in its infancy, existing evidence already suggests that microscopic plastic debris poses a significant risk to the health of animals in marine ecosystems. Our research continues so we can better understand the impact of this pollutant on the wider marine environment, such as evaluating what happens to plastics following ingestion, and how might they affect the

availability of food for marine predators. Unfortunately, with rates of manufacture rapidly increasing and long degradation times, marine plastic litter is likely to be a growing issue over the next century. As Dr Tony Butt wrote in the autumn edition of Pipeline “the terms ‘long-term’ and ‘far-reaching’ are not really adequate to describe plastic pollution,” suggesting instead that “as plastics won’t biodegrade and are transported by ocean currents all over the world, ‘eternal’ and ‘infinite’ are more appropriate”.

Clearly, a substance designed to last over 100 years should not be used a single

Left Zooplankton, such as bivalve larvae, juvenile decapods and copepods, can readily ingest microscopic plastic (seen in the luminous green segments). Image: Cole et al. (2013). Microplastic ingestion by zooplankton. *Environmental Science and Technology*. 47: 6646–6655.



time and then discarded. Over one third of plastic is packaging material, which is often used only once before being thrown away. We each have a duty to think about the plastics we use; do we really need to put onions in a plastic bag in the supermarket or require plastic beads in our shower gel? Plastic is an extremely useful product and has its place in modern society but unless we begin to use it responsibly, with an emphasis on refusing, reducing, reusing and recycling, we will be leaving a catastrophic plastic problem for our children. ☺

IF YOU WANT TO ASK **Dr Pennie Lindeque** or **Dr Matthew Cole** any questions about their research into microplastics you can email forinfo@pml.ac.uk You can also follow what we do at PML through our website www.pml.ac.uk Twitter: [@plymouthmarine](https://twitter.com/plymouthmarine) Facebook: [PlymouthMarineLaboratory](https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthMarineLaboratory) or search for us on LinkedIn.

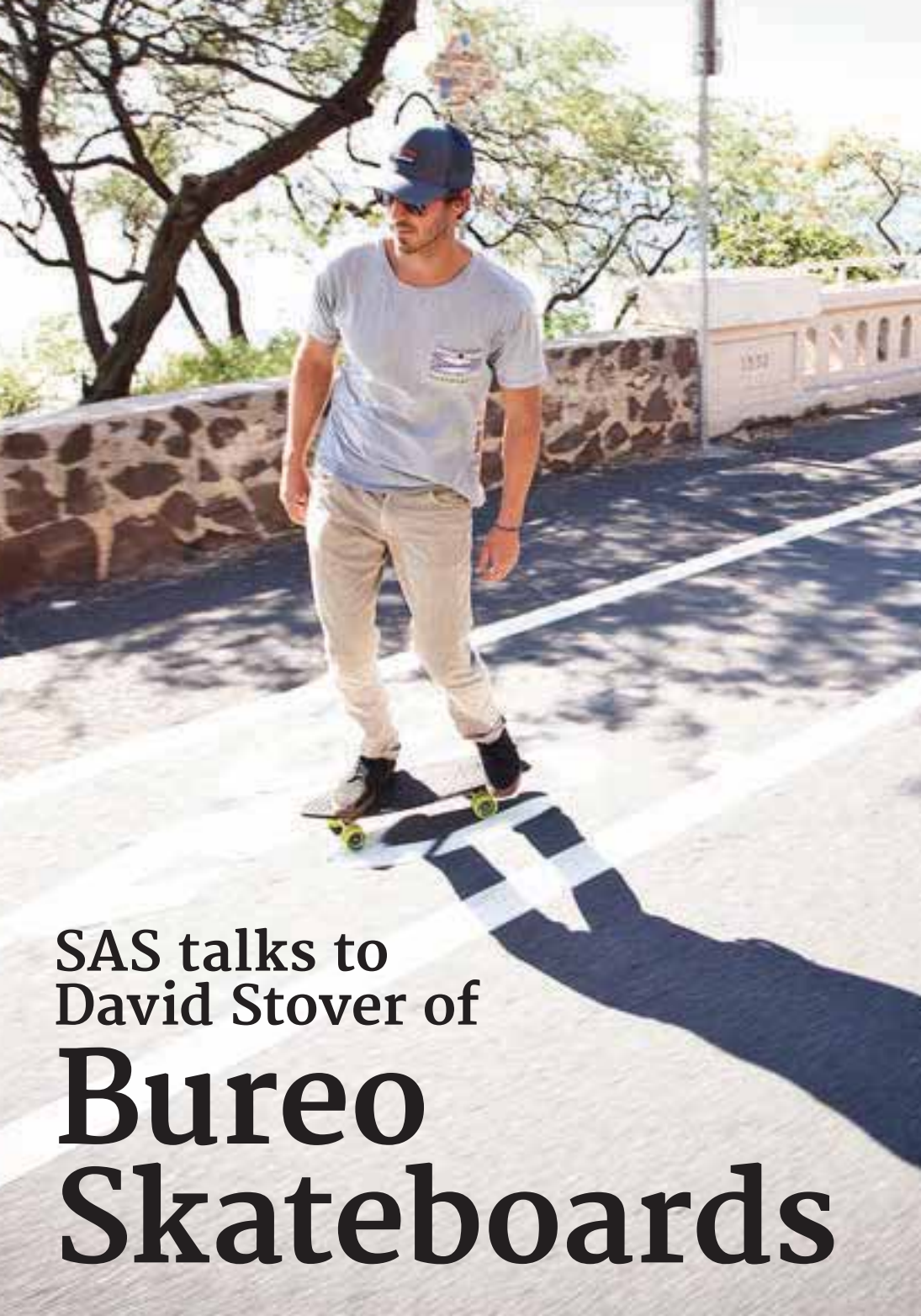




Jack Whitefield races down the line at Godrevy, a beach that has been closed repeatedly due to sewage overflow.



Photo Dave Muir



SAS talks to
David Stover of

Bureo Skateboards

Surfers Against Sewage was stoked to catch up with **Bureo Skateboards co-founder David Stover** in London recently to hear more about their efforts to close the loop on marine litter through the **Net Positiva** programme and creating beautiful, functional sustainable skateboards, or **Nets To Decks** as they like to call it! They already work closely with the enviro-surf community around the globe and we're excited about launching a new partnership with them this year. **Bureo Skateboards** are a shining example of up-cycling marine litter, putting a value on the growing volume of plastic materials floating in our seas and creating a business model that benefits both people and planet.

David, Congratulations on the project and the success of Bureo Skateboards. Tell us more about how the story started?

Thanks, we are stoked with the progress of Bureo to date. The story actually began in Manly, Australia in 2011-12. I was living with Ben Kneppers (Co-Founder) and we started spinning ideas to find solutions for plastic pollution in our oceans. Working corporate jobs, our free time revolved around morning surfs and time in the water. We became more and more aware of marine debris in the water through the daily routine and travels. We came together with our friend Kevin Ahearn and decided to focus on ideas to connect our passions with our careers. Originally, we focused on simple collection points in coastal towns, small recycling programs to remove nets from beaches. The idea quickly evolved into product development from collected materials, and finding a way to connect an exciting product with positive impacts for the ocean.

The Minnow is a great example of a big idea to tackle marine litter – what's the

response been like so far?

I think our approach to the collection of materials and production of the skateboard surprised people, and brought attention to marine litter from a different perspective. This has helped us reach a unique demographic, environmentally conscious consumers with a passion for boardsports. It has been great to get so much positive feedback from the industry, and I think people realize the value in what we are doing.

Why focus on marine litter? Was it based in personal experience?

Absolutely, we saw the marine litter problem first hand everywhere we went. Even in pristine areas, no location was isolated from the problem. The goal was to develop fun and innovative products from upcycled plastic waste by creating a sustainable collection program that gives back to coastal communities. In turn we could bring awareness to ocean plastics and inspire others to find solutions for plastic waste. Brainstorming ideas eventually led to plastic skateboards, and this sparked the project. →

“Faced with a multitude of plastic debris, we became intrigued with fishnet waste, highly durable materials that are a massive source of plastic pollution in our oceans. From there, we spent several months in a plastic engineering lab to study the fishnet materials, and develop a recycled formula for our skateboards.”

Faced with a multitude of plastic debris, we became intrigued with fishnet waste, highly durable materials that are a massive source of plastic pollution in our oceans. From there, we spent several months in a plastic engineering lab to study the fishnet materials, and develop a recycled formula for our skateboards.

We really wanted to create a product that would be something positive in light of this negative global issue of plastic pollution. Not only that, but one that would transform this harmful form of waste into something with a high value that can fund our effort in the coastal communities in Chile. Lastly, it had to be something that we connected with and enjoyed using. The cruiser skateboard checked all those boxes for

us, and is meant to stand for “surfing in the streets”. We grew up riding these kinds of boards and know them well. In addition, the value we can generate was something that can not only fund our collection efforts but also have the potential to scale to other communities and countries.

Tell us more about the Net Positiva Project partnerships & processes?

We start by making a partnership with a fishing syndicate that represents a collection of fishermen in a given fishing community in Chile. Making these first connections was mainly thanks to the support of World Wildlife Fund Chile, who generously opened their network to us.

It can be very challenging for the

fishermen to manage the disposal of their old nets, which is part of the reason why it makes up a significant proportion of the oceans' plastic pollution. Our research found programs in other countries that were providing the fishermen disposal points for their old nets to eliminate the harmful waste before it pollutes the marine environment. In response, we pioneered 'Net Positiva', Chile's first-ever derelict fishnet collection and recycling program where we provide the fishing syndicates this collection and removal service for their old nets and compensate them for every kilogram they provide us.

How does the process begin and can anyone get involved?

Fishing net waste is a complicated issue, but fortunately there is global movement through the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) spear headed by World Animal Protection to bring together industry, NGOs, and policy makers to create solutions. We believe focus needs to be concentrated on supporting the fisherman to ensure proper management of lost and abandoned materials. This includes resources and infrastructure provided to support the collection activities.

What have the biggest challenges been?

In developing the project, we were tasked with building a supply chain and manufacturing process from scratch. Working with recycled materials provides another layer of complexity to product development, but we were dedicated to show that this material can be utilized in high value products. As we expand our recycling program, our ongoing challenge is to bring awareness to the program and product, to making

sure the demand for our products continues to find recycling programs.

How hands on are all of you with the process?

We have been deeply involved with every step of the process. We worked in a lab with a research team to develop our process, and we have been on the ground in Chile for all the recycling operations. We now employ local workers to work with us in the port towns to separate, clean and pack the nets into large re-usable sacks. From here the nets are transported via 'dead-head' trucks (trucks running returning empty loads) back to Santiago. From here we work with a reputable facility to recycle and manufacture our boards, which are ocean freighted back to Los Angeles for final assembly.

How scalable is the project? Are there plans for global collection points?

We believe that the platform is extremely scalable and replicable. Fishing net waste is a global problem, and there are examples of other successful models, such as Interface's Net Works program and Aquafil's collection and recycling programs in Europe. We are actively expanding operations in Chile, and currently exploring programs in the US and other global locations.

Obviously retrieving discarded nets from the oceans has an immediate impact on the marine environment. What additional positive impacts does the project create for coastal communities and beyond?

For our collection program, we focus on working directly with the fisherman and local communities. In addition to keeping this material out of the →



Collecting nets to turn into skateboards

marine environment, we are creating and supporting local jobs through the collection/recycling program. Additionally, we have been working towards a fair trade model where we turn the waste into a commodity, providing \$/kg funding to support community development in the areas we work.

Do you think this model could be applied to other ubiquitous forms of marine litter? The plastic bottle for example?

We have seen similar models for other types of plastic. If you take a look at the Method project in Hawaii, they are working with local NGOs to harvest ocean plastics and incorporate into consumer products. We support these projects, and encourage other solutions. Most importantly we advocate refusing plastic bot-

tlers and other forms all together!

What other sustainability projects within the surf and skate community have caught your eye?

We have been fortunate to connect with an awesome network of inspiring people pushing for change in the industry. From a product development side, we took inspiration from Patagonia's progress with the Yulex wetsuit to incorporate natural fibers into wetsuits, Grain Surfboard's unique surfboard construction from natural materials, and Indosole's repurposing of tires from Bali into rad sandals are great examples of change in the industry. Enjoy handplanes is finding great solutions for board and wetsuit waste, and putting out some rad products. Sustainability is not a trend

in the industry, it is where all design is headed and it is the future of product development!

Tell us about your partnerships with NGO's worldwide.

We feel strongly that connecting business with the efforts of NGO's is vital for success, for both sides. Our impacts are still limited by our relative size, but we try to make differences where we can. In the US we are connected with Save the Waves, Surfrider, Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii, Sustainable Surf, Kokua Hawaii Foundation and 5 Gyres. We stay connected through partnered beach clean-ups, educational programs and sponsored events. We are excited to connect with Surfers Against Sewage in the UK, and continue to build a network of like-minded surfers around the world!

Can community beach cleans feed into the project?

Beach cleans are key to supporting our oceans. Reducing consumption of plastics and cutting the waste off at the source before the materials enter the waterways remain the priority focus. Once the waste is in the ocean, picking up marine litter on the beach is the easiest way to remove it from the waterways! Our team was involved in 15 cleanups in 2014, and we plan to get involved in as many as we can in 2015. Unfortunately, a large portion of fishing net waste does not move as freely in the water as other marine debris because many nets do not float or they get tangled in the marine environment (coral reefs, rocks, etc). Our focus is currently on collecting nets directly from fisherman, to prevent the materials from entering the marine environment. However, we are currently

evaluating material sources from beach cleans and looking at innovative ways to recycle those materials.

When was your last surf?

We have had a couple fun surfs in Southern California of late, but we are still riding high on a recent trip we made to Hawaii. We connected with the Kokua Hawaii Foundation and Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii on three beach clean-ups and an educational tour on marine litter and finding solutions in Oahu in January. Fortunately the Pacific turned on for a solid run of swell during the trip! We are fortunate that our work brings us to wave rich coasts, for which we always try to find a bit of time to get in the water.

Have you surfed in the UK yet?

I lived down in Sydney for a couple years. I like to say that I have surfed 'with' most of the UK, but not in the UK. Our whole team grew up in the Northeast in the US, where the conditions are comparable to the UK. Looking forward to getting a couple waves over that way later this year. ☺

WE HAVE 3 BUREO SKATEBOARDS TO GIVE AWAY to lucky SAS members. Just answer the following question.

What Country was Net Positiva launched in? Answers to info@sas.org.uk along with name and SAS membership number.

David Stover will be speaking at the **Global Wave Conference** in Cornwall in October. For more information on Bureo Skateboards please visit www.bureoskateboards.com

Introducing our Latest Campaign

Marine Litter Tattoos



Surfers Against Sewage work with inspiring artists from all over the world who help support our campaigns. This new artwork encapsulates the permanence of our marine litter message, highlighting some of the most prolific items found on UK shores and the devastating impact they can have on our marine environment. Look out for T-shirts with these designs in our Eco Surf Shop online soon!

We are thrilled to launch our new Marine Litter Tattoo campaign in this issue of Pipeline, giving our members the first exclusive peak of these stunning images. These beautiful new illustrations take their inspiration from highly stylised nautical and maritime tattoos that are synonymous with the sea and those deeply connected to it – mariners, sailors, fishermen, seafarers, explorers and in more recent times, surfers and those seeking thrills, excitement and adventure connected to the coastline. As tattoos, the designs also convey a strong sense of permanence, something that the marine litter crisis is threatening if urgent action is not taken soon.

Marine litter is rapidly becoming a permanent, almost indelible feature of global coastlines detracting from the aesthetic, intrinsic value of our beautiful oceans and beaches, threatening ecosystems and playing havoc with unique marine wildlife across the globe.

The campaign highlights some of the most pervasive litter items washing up on our beaches, including the single-use plastic bag, the plastic water bottle, the aluminium can and discarded fishing gear. These now ubiquitous items have become the new scourge of the seas, marauding our coastlines, stealing our views and burying their loot wherever they land. We've all seen these plastic pirates on our beaches and it's about time for a mutiny – enough is enough.

One of the designs, the 'Merman' also highlights the toxic threat plastics can pose to wildlife when lost at sea,

quite literally driving genetic changes and disrupting the reproductive cycle of certain marine species.

We hope that you like this stunning new campaign with a very serious message. Surfers Against Sewage is working at community, corporate and government level to tackle the marine litter crisis. The recent publication of SAS's Marine Litter Report (downloadable from www.sas.org.uk) sets out our vision to reduce UK beach litter by 50% by 2020. The report highlights the true scale of the marine litter crisis; the underlying causes and the threat marine litter poses to ecosystems, marine organisms and communities. The report also maps out practical and achievable solutions across industry, government and communities to increase action for much cleaner and safer beaches by 2020. 🌊

SUPPORTER ACTION: Please use and share the campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to raise awareness of the marine litter crisis and inspire action from your friends and family – from joining our beach cleans to getting involved with one of the campaigns! **#MarineLitterTattoo**

The new campaign is the fourth generously devised by the award winning advertising agency at **M&C Saatchi** and illustrated by **Nick The Tailor**. Surfers Against Sewage would like to thank **Chris Hides, Robert Graves-Morris, Dipesh Mistry, Rupert Simonds-Gooding, Mark Goodwin, Jessica Carnaby** and the whole **M&C Saatchi** team for all their skills and support!



Photo Chris Keverne

Surfers Against Sewage launches new marine litter monitoring programme to collect vital data for the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**.

Marine Litter Monitoring

Despite over twenty years of data collected through various surveys, Government regulators have recently questioned the value of the current marine litter datasets, calling for more information on the distribution and impact of marine litter. Intuitively, we all know that the scale of the marine litter crisis requires urgent action and are familiar with the most frequently found items of litter on our beaches from plastic bottles to cigarette butts. However, in response to the call for more evidence, this spring we are launching our own marine litter-monitoring programme, to complement our current anti-marine litter campaigns and community beach clean initiatives. Working closely with the European Environment Agency and our community volunteers nationwide, we will be collecting evidence at our beach cleans to strengthen the case for increased action from industry, Government and communities to better manage and reverse the marine litter crisis.

We can all play our part in collecting vital marine litter data, and we'll be asking our beach clean communities to use the newly developed Marine Litter

Watch app, which you can download for free to your smartphone. The app is easy to use, loaded with hundreds of litter items found on European beaches and features a handy top 20 of the most common items of litter you'll find on UK beaches. Surveys can be carried out with the Marine Litter Watch app on the beach and, once complete, users simply enter a unique Surfers Against Sewage code and upload the data to the web. This will feed into SAS's unique dataset, allowing us to identify trends and priority areas to develop community initiatives and new campaigns. Importantly, this data will also feed directly into the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), helping inform European Member States about the extent of the marine litter problem and the future measures needed to tackle the issue.

FULL DETAILS, INCLUDING A HOW-TO GUIDE, have just been launched on the **SAS website** and will be implemented for the first time at the **Big Spring Beach Clean** at the end of March.

BIG SPRING BEACH CLEAN



This weekend is set to see one of the UK's biggest-ever community responses to marine litter through **Surfers Against Sewage's** annual **Big Spring Beach Clean**. With over 150 beaches registered, covering Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England, we are expecting over 5,000 beach clean volunteers to join us for this uprising against litter. With just a few days to go, we hope that you'll be able to join us at a **Big Spring Beach Clean** event near you, so make sure you have it in your diary! Check the SAS website for the latest details - www.sas.org.uk/events

JOIN US! 27th – 29th March: Coastal Communities Unite To Protect Their Favourite Beaches

Beach clean events are a fantastic way of uniting and inspiring coastal communities to protect the beaches and coastal spaces most important to them, and every piece of litter removed is a victory in the fight against the marine litter crisis. Community beach clean events also leave a lasting positive legacy, with many volunteers forming new networks and beach clean initiatives to protect local beaches on a regular basis.

The marine litter crisis is one of the biggest threats to the health of the marine environment and it is vital that we ramp up our collective actions to combat the issue. Approximately 8 million individual pieces of marine litter enter the sea every day, contributing to the death of over a million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals annually from ingestion and entanglement. Shockingly in some parts of the ocean there is now more plastic than plankton.

In response, we are calling for a 50% reduction in UK beach litter by 2020 and recently published our Marine Litter Report and action plan highlighting initiatives at community, corporate and government levels to help achieve this goal.

As part of our activities, and working closely with World Animal Protection, volunteers will be specifically monitoring and recording ghost gear (abandoned and lost fishing gear) through the Sea Change Campaign Hub, to better understand associated impacts in the marine environment. Volunteers will also catalogue a wider variety of marine litter using our new Marine Litter Watch App (see pages 26 & 27). 📱

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK LEAD SPONSORS **Vita Coco Coconut Water** who will be providing drinks for all lead volunteers, **World Animal Protection UK** and **Protec Direct** for their support in making the **Big Spring Beach Clean possible**. We would also like to thank **Klean Kanteen** and **Saltrock** for their ongoing support. See you on the beach!

For more details check www.sas.org.uk or email beachcleans@sas.org.uk





Photo Dave Muir

The Global Wave Conference

12th – 14th October 2015,
Cornwall & London

As one of the world's leading enviro-surf organisations, with a 25-year track-record of delivering marine conservation projects, **Surfers Against Sewage** will be leading the fourth installment of the **Global Wave Conference** in the UK this October.

The Global Wave Conference is an international event, which brings together the world's leading enviro-surf NGO's, academics, oceanographers, environmentalists, grassroots activists, surfers, politicians, the surf industry and coastal communities. The aim of the event is to highlight the threats to global sites of special surfing interest, facilitate global environmental and sustainability initiatives, and increase leadership from the surfing community on the protection of waves, oceans, beaches and coastal ecosystems.

The conference will cover themes including surf habitat protection & management, marine litter, water quality, climate change, human health & wellbeing and surfonomics. We aim to raise the level of collaboration between global enviro-surf NGOs, increase the awareness and impact of existing environmental campaigns, and develop new initiatives to better recognise and protect global surfing heritage.

The event is being organised at a time when the protection of our oceans is at the top of political, news and public agenda. It falls during a key timeframe for protecting our beaches and coastline through the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, and from an international perspective, the conference will also take place shortly before the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. The UN conference objective is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world. In the run up to

the Global Wave Conference, we will be engaging the world's surfers and water sports enthusiasts with the critical threat that climate change poses to the coastal zones, reefs and surf habitats.

As a finale to the conference, we also have a unique opportunity to unite the global enviro-surf movement for a reception in the Palace of Westminster as part of the Protect Our Waves All Party Parliamentary Group. This would be a historic, symbolic, moment showing just how far we've come in the last 25 years.

The full Global Wave Conference programme will be announced this summer however we can already confirm the participation of The Surfrider Foundation International, Save The Waves, The Surfrider Foundation Europe, Salvem O Surf, Sustainable Surf, Waves of Freedom, The Centre for Surf Research, The Surfbreak Protection Society, Surfing For Change and the Surf Industry Manufacturers Association. ☺

THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE at the **Bedruthan Steps Hotel** on **Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th October**, and at the **Palace of Westminster** on **14th October**. There will be very limited places available. Speakers, conference information and ticket details will be announced in the next issue of Pipeline and on the conference website. For speaker & sponsorship enquiries, or register your interest in attending the conference please email joanne@sas.org.uk



Surfers Against Sewage launches new antibiotic resistance study with the **European Centre for the Environment & Human Health**.

The Beach Bums Survey

The widespread use and misuse of antibiotics in clinical and veterinary medicine for the treatment and prevention of bacterial infections has contributed to the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria (ARB). ARB are recognised globally as a serious public health threat and an urgent research priority because once easily treatable infections are becoming harder and more expensive to treat, exerting a significant burden on healthcare services worldwide.

There are multiple transmission routes by which humans may be exposed to ARB: person-to-person contact and the ingestion of contaminated food and drinking water have been implicated, with exposure possible in many circumstances, such as within healthcare settings, and during international travel. However, the natural environment has so far received little attention as a setting in which people may be exposed to ARB, although it is increasingly being recognised as an important reservoir of ARB.

One compartment of particular interest is seawater, which is regularly contaminated by human and animal faecal material containing billions of harmful

pathogens. Indeed, a variety of clinically important ARB, such as *Escherichia coli* that are resistant to third-generation antibiotics (cephalosporins (3GCs)), have been detected in coastal waters around England and Wales.

Recreational use of coastal waters can expose water users to ARB, particularly if seawater is ingested during recreational activities. It is biologically plausible that accidental ingestion of seawater containing ARB could lead to colonisation by ARB of the gut in people that have taken part in coastal water sports. 🌊

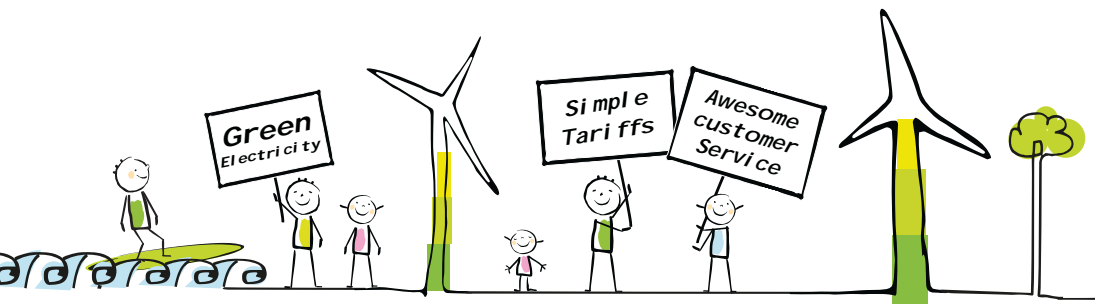
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE will once again be teaming up with the **European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH)**, part of the **University of Exeter Medical School**, to recruit volunteers to contribute to innovative and important research over the course of the summer.

For more information please visit www.sas.org.uk or contact Campaign Officer David Smith on david@sas.org.uk



European Centre for
Environment & Human Health

Make a difference with your energy bills



**Get a £50 SAS shop voucher
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We're an energy company unlike any other – we take the money our customers spend on their electricity and gas bills and use it to build new sources of renewable energy, such as windmills.

People:Power is at the heart of what we do – the more people who join us, the more sources of green energy we can build. Join us and you'll receive a £50 SAS shop voucher* – it couldn't be easier to switch and takes less than five minutes.

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or visit **www.ecotricity.co.uk/sas**

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You can see our latest fuel mix at www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-fuel-mix.

BOARDMASTERS

CORNWALL, 5TH *to the* 9TH AUGUST, 2015

F A I T H L E S S

RUDIMENTAL *LIVE*

BASTILLE

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT / CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN / CLEAN BANDIT
THE DARKNESS / DE LA SOUL / DUKE DUMONT / NICK MULVEY / SEASICK STEVE

CIRCA WAVES / DJ EZ / ETON MESSY / LOW STEPPA / LOWER THAN ATLANTIS / MNEK / MONKI / RAE MORRIS / REEF / SUNSET SONS / THE MAGICIAN
T. WILLIAMS / WAZE & ODYSSEY / APRES / DOORLY / GRADES / ILLYUS & BARRIENTOS / JAX JONES / JUST KIDDIN / KIM CHURCHILL / LXURY
MARQUIS HAWKES / PRIDES / SG LEWIS / WEISS / PLUS MANY MORE ACTS STILL TO BE ANNOUNCED

INTERNATIONAL SURF COMPETITIONS

MEN'S OPEN / WOMEN'S OPEN / WSL MEN'S LONGBOARD / WSL WOMEN'S LONGBOARD / PRO JUNIOR
WHIPPER SNAPPERS / PRO SKATE AND BMX COMPS / MINI & MIDI RAMPS
BEACH SESSION GIGS / SURF ART, PHOTOGRAPHY & FILMS / BEACH BAR & BBQ / SURF VILLAGE / CORNISH MARKET

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For over 30 years

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Star Supporter Dai Morgan



Name: Dai Morgan

Age: 78

Occupation: Retired Highway Engineer

Lives: Seascale, Cumbria

What do clean beaches mean to you?

I hate to see litter anywhere and clear it from around the village and roads leading onto it, as well as the three mile stretch of Seascale beach. I think people are entitled to a clean environment.

How long have you been picking litter off the beach?

For nine years or so, regularly, but

I've also been a Voluntary Warden in the Lake District National Park for a long time. On one occasion about thirty years ago we found three large bales of compressed waste envelopes from the Liverpool area. It turned out that a Liverpool local authority were taking their waste out by barge and tug to a deep off the south end Isle of Man and dumping it. I understand that the practice was stopped forthwith!

In your years of beach cleaning, how have you seen the tide of beach litter change over the years?

In every issue we meet somebody who goes above and beyond in the realm of supporting the campaign for a clean, safe and protected marine environment. Today, we meet **Dai Morgan** who first contacted us about our **Marine Litter Report**. We soon realised Dai had a wealth of knowledge in this area from years of personal and professional experience. Dai has been investigating our latest UFO for us through his contacts and community and as you will read, Dai has seen some amazing things clearing approximately **12 tonnes of litter** from his local beach and surrounding area over the past 9 years!

As a beachcomber when I was a boy of nine in Aberystwyth in 1945, there was no plastic litter on the beach. In the summer, the visitors usually made sure that they returned their pop bottles for the tuppence deposit, if not we lads would soon scavenge them for the money! But plastic has gradually become a creeping menace. We've lived in Seascale for almost forty years and seen more and more plastic bottles, bags and discarded fishing gear in particular, nearly all brought in on the tide.

Do you keep a record of your cleaning?

Over the last 9 years, I've filled 3282 sacks, plus the usual array of larger stuff. It started with 130 sacks in 2006 and reached 367 in 2012.

What are your common finds?

Plastic drinks bottles, milk bottles, including a shrink-wrapped crate of full half litre milk bottles from Ar-magh Dairies in Ireland! Plastic bags, disposable lighters; balloons are a constant menace, I once counted 165 over three consecutive days along a mile

and a half of beach. A lot of five-gallon plastic drums seem to be modified as lobster-pots, but the really annoying ones are those full of used engine oil, presumably from fishing vessels, as definitely are the pieces of discarded net and lengths of rope. Broken up pieces of polystyrene and the occasional complete box from holding frozen fish.

What have been some of your favourite or most unusual finds?

I have a hurling ball in pristine condition still with its gold writing which now sits on the bookshelf above my desk! I've found a couple of Urns, one from Warrington Crematorium. I keep a lookout for ringed seabirds, Manx Shearwaters are one of my favourite birds. I've had a Road Closed sign from Drogheda, a House for Sale sign from Arklow and large corrugated election posters for Fianna Fail and Fianna Gael, all from Ireland. A Manchester Corporation dustbin, numerous Irish fish-boxes, messages in bottles thrown off ferries in the Irish Sea. A fortnight after floods a couple of years ago there were dozens →



of flowerpots of various sizes, presumably from peoples gardens.

We heard that you've also been inspiring your local community who kindly donated an ATV to you to help with your efforts?

For several years the Parish Newsletter has published the number of sacks of litter I collect and 12 months ago they added a note saying that a quad-bike would make life a lot easier as I'm not getting any younger. A group of local line-dancers saw this and did a six hour dance-athon and raised £2,000, inspiring others and eventually over £5,000 was raised. I was overwhelmed at the generosity of local residents and businesses that contributed.

What are your hopes for the future of our coastlines?

That governments will legislate and enforce the recommendations of international bodies like Seas at Risk and KIMO and our own organizations like yourselves and the Marine Conservation Society. Only with commitment at higher levels will the tide of litter be stemmed at source and save us from having to deal with the consequences. 🌊

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME DAI! We are inspired by your dedication to keeping our coastlines clean and would like to give you an honorary membership for this year to Surfers Against Sewage.

MEMBERSHIP PAGES



MEMBERSHIP SECRET CODE

To access the members area where you can find the latest membership info as well as current and previous editions of Pipeline in a pdf format, the secret code is now: 25years

To claim your 10% discount in the SAS shop, just type in the code 25years into the 'coupon code' box as you check out and click 'apply code'.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

How do you feel about your membership with Surfers Against Sewage? Just visit our online survey and have your say on everything from Pipeline content, to how often we communicate with you - www.surveymonkey.com/s/WGB3PY5 Thanks for taking part!

COMPETITION

For our 25th anniversary, we have 25 gifts to giveaway from the SAS archives. Just answer the following question: What does SAS membership mean to you? Please email your answer along with your postcode and membership number to info@sas.org.uk

WIN A SURF HOLIDAY FOR LIFE WITH STAR SURF CAMPS!



WIN A SURF HOLIDAY FOR LIFE WITH STAR SURF CAMPS!

We have teamed up with **Star Surf Camps** who are offering amazing prizes for the individual and team who raise the most money for SAS!

The individual who raises the most will win a surf trip to a **Star Surf Camp** of their choice every year for life!

The team (of up to fifteen people) that raises the most will win a group trip to a **Star Surf Camp** of their choice! For your chance to win an incredible group holiday or a holiday for life simply:

- Decide on your fundraising activity, which can be anything at all!
- If you want to be a team recruit your teammates (friends, work colleagues, university teams etc.)!
- Set up a **Just Giving** or **Virgin Money Giving** page and tell your story
- Contact Katy on **01872 555947** or at **katy@sas.org.uk** and fill her in on your ideas
- Get fundraising!

Katy will be on hand every step of the way to help you make the most of your fundraising, and be in with a fighting chance of winning this spectacular prize! Here's our link to Just Giving to get you off to a flying start: **www.justgiving.com/surfersagainstsewage**
For more information on the competition get in touch with Katy! See more about the camps at **starsurfcamps.com**

Joe from Star Surf Camps says a few words on his favourite campaign and why he is keen to support SAS;

"I moved back to the UK just a few weeks ago after five wonderful years running our surf camps across the world. I was mortified to come home to find some of the waves here have limited access enforced by the MOD! It was a real blessing to hear SAS are on the case with the POW campaign and it made me realise it's time to get on board with SAS and use Star Surf Camps as a means to mobilise more people to help."

*terms and conditions apply, we will be uploading a page to **www.sas.org.uk** soon with all the details.



UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

1.5KM OCEAN SWIM | 40KM CYCLE | 12KM OFF ROAD RUN



In association with

ventia

SATURDAY 11TH JULY, 2015

Croyde Ocean Triathlon in association with Ventia is coming to North Devon this Summer.

Set to take the UK triathlon world by storm, this exciting new event based at the beautiful, award-winning Putsborough Sands, takes in some of the South West's most stunning scenery. Join us for what promises to be a fun and challenging event.

TICKETS ON SALE 17TH MARCH

WWW.CROYDEOCEAN.CO.UK



Raise vital funds for Surfers Against Sewage by taking part in the Croyde Ocean Triathlon

FUNDRAISING SUPERSTARS!



Mike Morris raised a fantastic £334.67 through fundraising greetings cards.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the amazing individuals, teams, schools, clubs and businesses who have raised money for SAS – THANK YOU!



Beckie did a New Year's Day dip in Scarborough without a wetsuit and raised £105 – amazing!



Ghislaine Couvillat was meant to swim the Great London Swim but this was cancelled due to bad water quality – the irony! Ghislaine raced in Richmond instead and raised an amazing £630.



Giles Watson our amazing Bristol rep raised £244 through his annual SAS Fundraising quiz, thank you to Paul Morgan (Shark Bite Surf Shop) and Kristian Crews (Spoke and Stringer) for donating prizes!

Jeremy Bradley organised a Mithian School Dads quiz night and raised £198!

Adam & Katy Phillips took part in the Great South Run and raised £227.

Suzanne Waterworth ran the New York Marathon and raised a fantastic £570!

The Driftwood Spa's in St Agnes raised £46 at a after beach clean fundraising gig!

The Aggie Hotel raised £122.90 through their quiz, huge thank you to Pete Mitchell & Bill & Di – THANK YOU!

Alexander Hart ran the Cardiff Half Marathon and raised £42.

Ellie Chapman ran the Bristol Half Marathon and raised £95.



We are delighted to welcome on board Katy who is our new Fundraising Officer, if you have any fundraising questions, would like to take part in a fundraiser or organise your own then contact Katy! katy@sas.org.uk or **01872 555947**.



Do you have a business and fancy having one of our collection tins – they're a great way to raise money for clean seas – get in touch with katy@sas.org.uk if you'd like one!

SUPERMARKET COLLECTIONS

Katy has been busy organising supermarket collections around Cornwall; we've done 5 so far this year and raised a fantastic £367.45. If you would like to organise a supermarket collection in support of SAS contact Katy@sas.org.uk for details!

COLLECTION TINS

Waterman's Ale house in Falmouth has raised £10.40

Free Riders surf Shop in Falmouth has raised £6.82

Royal Standard Inn in Falmouth has raised £5.08

Five West in Falmouth has raised £6.92

Toast in Falmouth has raised £44.04

Jacobs Ladder Inn in Falmouth has raised £33.83

Café Irie in Newquay raised £26.10

Cool Bean Café in Perranporth raised £6.78

Miners Arms in Mithian raised £11.73

Newquay Arms raised £26.11

Trans Surf at Morgan Porth raised £5.69

Travellers Rest at Trevarrien raised £80.93

Perranporth Inn raised £28.74

SAS ECO SURF SHOP



New classic SAS hoody £50 Available in 5 new colours



Fair Trade
Chunky Fleece
£60



Vintage
Pollution Mug
£8



Eco Gift
Bundle
£36

To support our beach clean events we salvaged waste cuttings from organic cotton clothing, shredded them, blended with recycled plastic bottles, printed them with water based inks and turned them into The Beach Guardian Tees.



Beach guardian tee
100% recycled £25
New colours now
in stock

Ethical, sustainable and recycled - We love to promote sustainable living and choose products with respect for the environment and life in general.



Reusable steel water
bottle £23 Available
in 3 colours 532ml

To encourage more people to switch over to re-usables, we are offering £5 off all orders over £25. Including, thermos flasks, mugs, water bottles, cups, towels, tees, wax and more. Just add in code PIPELINE at checkout

THE VINTAGE RETRO COLLECTION 1990 – 2015



DESIGN Rory
NAME Making Waves
DATE c.2010



DESIGN Will & Tom
NAME Protect our Waves
DATE c.2012



DESIGN Unknown
NAME Eco-warrior
DATE c.1999



DESIGN Unknown
NAME Gas Mask
DATE c.1992



DESIGN Rory
NAME Consurfationist
DATE c.2010



DESIGN Unknown
NAME Vintage Air
DATE c.1991



DESIGN Mau Mau
NAME Pollution
DATE c.1990



DESIGN Competition winner
NAME Vintage Eye
DATE c.1992



DESIGN A-Side Studio
NAME POW
DATE c.2012

Our vintage collective offers t-shirts from talented and generous artists supporting SAS campaigns from 1990 – 2015. These, all original retro tees, combine the qualities of a great fitting organic cotton t-shirt with classic and iconic designs from the past 25 years of SAS.

SAS SUPPORTERS



SAS PARTNERS

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msw
magicseaweed

If your company would like to support SAS campaigns protecting waves, oceans and beaches around the UK please contact Peter Lewis on pete@sas.org.uk to discuss opportunities.

LESS BREWING,
more **DOING.**



**HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY TO ALL
AT SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE**

**BIG
SPRING
BEACH
CLEAN**

In association with



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