



# Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

outstanding scilly



nature



access



beauty



heritage

## Microbeads, Balloons & A Message in a Bottle...

By Nikki Banfield, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Communications Officer

**For those of you that know me you will be aware that I talk rubbish; A LOT! It's extremely unlikely that you've had a conversation with me and not been bombarded with information about marine litter. Microbeads, nurdles, plastic bottles, ghost gear, balloons, Lego, Smartie lids, lobster trap tags.....and the list goes on.**

As part of my work with the Wildlife Trust I get to talk to others on a regular basis about all of this, not only feeding my obsession but in many cases getting other people hooked as well; it's brilliant!

This year my preoccupation with marine litter & especially plastic has gone one step further and as a result the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust has joined the Cornwall Plastic Pollution Coalition (CPPC): more than 30 environmental organisations, beach cleaning groups and marine science experts who collectively raise awareness of marine litter, campaign and try to find solutions to the issues that it causes around our coastlines; for both people & wildlife.

**Microbeads** Found in all sorts of things from cosmetics to cleaning products these tiny pieces of plastic are trouble. Between 5000 to 95,000 'beads are released into the environment with every single use of these products; the majority ending up in the sea. Following campaigning MP's voted to "Ban the Bead" by 2017 and many retailers are starting early, removing them from their "own-brand" products as I type!



*This balloon, picked up on the Scilly coast travelled here from Portsmouth, that's 240 miles, in less than 24 hours!*

**Balloons** Balloons have rapidly become the "cool" way to promote your product; what little person isn't drawn to the bright floaty colours? But when they escape into our environment, either through purposeful releases or accidentally, they can travel miles; land in our seas and on land and become a hazard to our wildlife. The CPPC has written to and had responses from organisations such as Virgin Media who are listening to our message regarding environmentally friendly promotional tools to replace balloons.

**Message in a Bottle** We are also whole-heartedly supporting the Surfer's Against Sewage Message in a Bottle campaign which is calling for the introduction of bottle return/deposit scheme on plastic bottles and cans. An estimated 35.8 million plastic bottles are used and discarded in the UK each day, of which only a little over half are currently recycled!



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**ISLES OF SCILLY**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

*To find out more about all these things and how you can help pop over to our website!*

Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust registered charity number 1097807  
[www.ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk)



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