

NURDLE —NEWS—

April 2017

NURDLE HUNTING NEWS

THE GREAT WINTER NURDLE HUNT—A roaring success!

We had a fantastic turn-out for our Great Winter Nurdle Hunt, which took place on 3rd-5th February this year. The weekend was in collaboration with Marine Conservation Society, Fauna & Flora International, Surfers Against Sewage, Environmental Investigation Agency and Greenpeace UK, as well as many more regional volunteer groups. We had over 600 volunteers from all around the UK descend to their local shorelines for a nurdle hunt! Of the 279 reports to our map that weekend, 73% found nurdles, and almost half collected over 100. The weekend not only got more evidence onto our map, it also did a huge amount for nurdle publicity. Read more about the results [Here](#).



The [Dorset Devils](#) joined in our Great Winter Nurdle Hunt and made some great art with their finds!

REACHING OUT TO GOVERNMENT

MICROPLASTICS CONSULTATION: From December 16 - February 17, UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) held a public consultation examining the details of their proposed ban on microbeads from personal care products. Importantly, this included a further examination of other sources of microplastics, and potential solutions for the UK government to act on in the future. We were able to feed results of our Great Winter Nurdle Hunt into the consultation, asking for better scrutiny of the industry's voluntary scheme, Operation Clean Sweep, and for the government to examine potential for legislation to ensure all companies handling pellets have measures in place to stop further pellet loss. [Find out more](#).

OUR WORK WITH INDUSTRY

PLASTICS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

Fidra was pleased to attend an event at the Scottish Parliament in Holyrood, Edinburgh, organised by The British Plastics Federation. Removing pellet loss as a source of microplastic to the environment is clearly a vital part of any circular production chain. Fidra's Projects Manager Sarah Archer spoke about Operation Clean Sweep, the industry-led best practice guidelines aimed at stopping further pellet loss, praising the steps taken by some companies, but making suggestions for how the scheme could become truly effective in the future.



Project Manager Sarah Archer discussing pellet loss at Holyrood in February.



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EUROPEAN PELLETS

NEW INTERNATIONAL NURDLE INFO: We know that pellet pollution is truly widespread, and not just restricted to UK shores. Nurdle hunters are submitting finds from all around the world, and NGOs around Europe have been conducting their own monitoring of microplastics on beaches. We wanted to share more of this information with you, so we've updated our website to include information from the countries represented by the European Pellet Loss Coalition (see [Aug 16 issue](#)). Check them out here to learn more about the European pellet problem: www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/european-nurdle-hot-spots



Nurdle pollution on the beach in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria

COTTON BUD NEWS

Clare Cavers, Cotton Bud Project lead with J&J's new paper buds



MAJOR SUPERMARKETS GO FOR PLASTIC-FREE BUDS! Fidra's The Cotton Bud Project has been celebrating as 7 major retailers pledge to phase out plastic cotton bud sticks, replacing them with rolled paper, which are less harmful if flushed (though still shouldn't be!). The pledges came after 2-3 years of behind-the-scenes discussions with Fidra, followed by public pressure from a 150,000-strong petition put together by Bristol charity City To Sea and 38 Degrees. Tesco, Sainsbury's, Boots, Morrisons, Lidl, Aldi and Asda have all pledged, joining Waitrose and Johnson&Johnson who pledged back in Spring '16 and are already stocking their new paper buds on supermarket shelves. [Read more.](#) **How can you help?** Where in the world have you found cotton buds on beaches? Tweet us your pics and info with [#cottonbudproject](#) and spread the word!

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

WETWIPES TURN NASTY WHEN YOU FLUSH THEM- Wet wipes are typically made with plastic fibres and even those that are labelled as 'flushable' should never be flushed! It's thought it costs UK water companies over £81 million to clear blockages caused by wipes, and huge numbers end up directly on our beaches... [Marine Conservation Society](#) have been campaigning for better labelling to make the message clear: Only Pee, Poo and Paper belong in the loo! [SIGN THE PETITION.](#)



AND FINALLY...



A CALL FOR NURDLES: Have you been collecting nurdles? Don't know what to do with them now?? A travelling museum exhibition from Switzerland is looking to collect nurdles from all around the world to highlight this pesky pollutant. Why not send a few to them? Find out more here: [Out to Sea? The Plastic Garbage Project.](#)

PLEASE KEEP SPREADING THE NURDLE-WORD! FIND US ON [FACEBOOK](#) | [LINKEDIN](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#) | [TWITTER](#)