



News Bulletin#10

November 2014

An update of news from
The Forth Estuary Forum & around the Forth

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Annual Conference last week, either with presentations or by attending. A full report on the day will be included in our next 'Forthsight' newsletter which is due to be published in early December.

Bag charge bonus for beach clean groups and others

From 20th November, local groups can make applications to Keep Scotland Beautiful for small grants of £250. The grants, which use the proceeds from the single use carrier bag charge collected by Tesco, are for making those small but vital improvements to the local environment. So if you run local beach cleans and need some new equipment or perhaps would like to start one, take a look at the details in the latest 'Clean Up Scotland' newsletter, <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/media/495768/10-Clean-Up-Scotland-Newsletter-October-2014.pdf>

Mixed reaction to coal find under the Forth

The company, Cluff Natural Resources plc, has announced that as part of an estimated 335 million tonnes of coal under the Forth seabed, it has identified two coal seams within its Kincardine UGC licence area of sufficient quality for a UGC plant. The company now intends to seek planning permission to build a gasification plant, possibly at an existing industrial complex such as Longannet or Grangemouth. WWF Scotland have expressed concerns about this additional use of fossil fuels. For further details follow this link, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-29987033>. The full Cluff Natural Resources press release is available via http://www.cluffnaturalresources.com/documents/KINCARDINEPRESSRELEASE10.11.14_000.pdf.

The Sun(fish) arrives and fades away at North Queensferry

An oceanic sunfish which normally lives up to 600m (1,968ft) below the surface has been washed up at East Bay beach, North Queensferry. The fish was cared for by staff from Deep Sea World but sadly died. However, as this is such an unusual find for the Forth, **FORUM MEMBER**, National Museums of Scotland have said they would like to keep it as part of their research collection. For more information follow this link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-29960050>.

Consent granted to decommission seven nuclear submarines at Rosyth Dockyard

The Office for Nuclear Regulation has granted consent for a project to decommission seven out-of-service nuclear submarines at Rosyth Royal Naval Dockyard in Fife. It has published a report describing the reasons and considerations behind its decision, the conditions attached to the consent and the measures Rosyth Royal Naval Dockyard Limited will take to control any significant environmental effects. Further details and copies of the report can be accessed via: <http://news.onr.org.uk/2014/11/consent-to-decommission-seven-nuclear-submarines/>.

Radioactive waste from the 1950s

Dumping of radioactive waste in the Forth, in the 1950s, made the headlines in the Dundee based, The Courier, earlier this week, see <http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/shocking-extent-of-radioactive-waste-dumped-in-scottish-seas-1.674763>. Whilst raising awareness of such issues is always a positive step towards restoring natural ecosystems, much of this information was in the public domain a significant time ago, as recorded in the House of Lords in July 1997, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199798/ldhansrd/vo970730/text/70730w06.htm>.

Portrait of lost fisherman is found

Fisherman, Cathel Munro, was lost at sea nearly 30 years ago, but a haunting portrait of him by his friend, Derek Robertson, has now been reunited with the local artist. The painting has just gone on show at the Lifelines exhibition at, **FORUM MEMBER**, the Scottish Fisheries Museum, Anstruther. Details of Derek's hunt for the painting and the owners hunt for the story behind the picture can be found via <http://dundee.stv.tv/articles/299238-derek-robertsons-haunting-painting-of-cathel-munro-found-its-way-home/>.