

COLONSAY BEACH CLEARANCE

Message to participants:

Welcome, thanks for coming. You are here at your own risk, but please allow me a few words to minimise any risk at all!

We have got First Aid kit, mobile phone and soap for hand-washing, also sun-block. Do not underestimate danger of sunburn or windburn - we suggest wearing a hat and covering the arms and legs.

Dangers are few – avoid broken glass, rusty iron and anything unfamiliar, especially if rocket-shaped. Do not lift anything heavy or awkward – anything like that, please tell Kevin Byrne and he will make special arrangements.

Ticks are unlikely on the shore and we do not think that they carry Lyme disease in Colonsay – all the same, if you get a tick-bite monitor the site and if you spot an RAF-roundel appearing get to the doctor very quickly indeed. Leptospirosis or Weils Disease is unlikely in such an exposed location, but hand-washing will make doubly sure. Please warn us of any known allergy, perhaps to bee stings etc.? Rusty iron is jolly good for tetanus – we are reliably informed that most of us have had enough boosters for a lifetime, but do monitor any cuts carefully.

Please also monitor children and make sure that they know about jellyfish. If you have a dog, do not let it eat jellyfish – this does happen.

Please fill the black bags and store them in the white builders' bags for uplift later. Plastic floats can be heaped in and around the big white bags, and lengths of string can make daisy-chains from gallon bottles etc., rather than wasting the plastic bags. String, netting and bits of rope are a particular hazard to wildlife, so is well worthy of collection.

We need to avoid disturbance to the birds; we are unlikely to linger long enough but if birds appear to be distressed, please move away. Thank you again for your contribution to the event – please enjoy the event.