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Your Community

Fight on the beaches to turn tide of litter
Our huge beach clean-up is nearly here - and we're relying on you to make sure it is the biggest and best ever.

We are asking you to give up just a few hours of your time to really make a difference to our beautiful coastlines which are being spoilt by litter bugs. There are Beachwatch 2006 events all over the weekend at beaches across our communities. The biggest will be at Southsea beach this Sunday. Portsmouth City Council will be providing all the equipment necessary to carry out the survey of our beaches - which is expected to throw up a huge amount of rubbish. Katie Anderson from Triton Scuba is running the clean-up - a We Can Do It! event - which begins at South Parade Pier at 2pm. She said: 'This is our one chance this year to really make a difference to the mess that is slowly spoiling our beaches. 'If we are not careful we could lose one of the most precious things that sadly too many people in Portsmouth and Southsea take for granted. 'By carrying out this survey and feeding the information back to the Marine Conservation Society we can get a true indication of the amount of litter that beach visitors, shipping waste and fishing waste throw up.'

We're looking for volunteers and families to take part. And helping clean up is a brilliant education for children about the damage we can do to our environment. Groups of friends and work colleagues will find it an excellent way of really helping out the community and finding out a few facts about the coastline. The statistics on the amount of rubbish found on our beaches make for shocking reading. Almost 2,000 pieces of litter items per kilometre was recorded on UK beaches in 2005, equal to one piece of litter every 50 centimetres. Linda Symes, chairwoman of Southsea Town Council, which is jointly running the Southsea beach clean-up, said: 'I think it is important because we all like to use the space and we like the environment to be kept in good condition. 'This way we can make sure of that by doing it ourselves.'

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Page 1 of 1

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Katie Anderson and Ian Brown from Triton Scuba and their colleagues will be taking part in Beachwatch

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- Top stories
- Portsmouth
- Fareham and Meon
- Gosport
- Havant and W Sussex
- Waterlooville and E Ha
- Your community

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Pompey Page

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