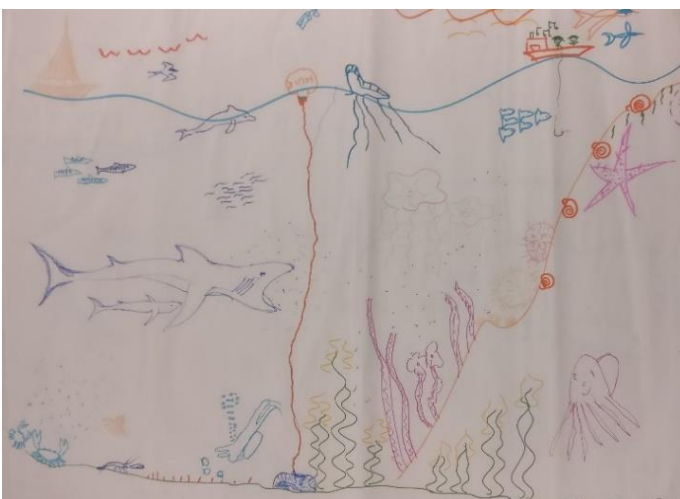




Jura is not an island in isolation. The issues we face here are common issues faced by many coastal communities around Scotland and the current threat of the industrial fish farm proposal by Kames, at Corpach Bay on the unspoilt west coast, has made it more important than ever to connect with our local community as well as share resources and experiences with other coastal communities. Over the summer months the Wild Side of Jura has held two events to accomplish that.

On Saturday 13th July 26 adventurous souls headed out to Jura's wild side for a 'rubbish adventure'. Brein Phort is one of the more accessible of Jura's west coast beachesonly an hours boat trip and half an hour walk.... From this bay no human habitation is visible and the nearest road is six and a half miles away across open hill. This remote uninhabited coast is precious to our community but unfortunately the negative influence of humans was all too apparent. The bay was littered with fish boxes, netting, bouys, plastic bottles and tyres and the cleanup operation initially looked unmanageable. However, within four hours we had cleared the beach and collected 17 huge bags of rubbish. Making a difference was important to the people who contributed and the opportunity to venture off the beaten track and appreciate this isolated and dramatic place made the undertaking particularly special. We would like to thank all who helped us on our epic beach clean and in particular; our boat operators who got us out there and Skyhook Helicopters who are hoping to take the rubbish to a more accessible location for its disposal.



On the evening of 1st of August the Jura community came together to discuss the work of the Coastal Communities Network (CCN), exploring ways that other communities around Scotland are protecting their marine resources and looking at how Jura might join them. We also learnt about the Argyll Coast and Islands Hope Spot. It is the only one in the UK and this international designation recognises that the marine environment around Jura is special and is critical to the health of the ocean. In coming together to support

each other; sharing ideas, resources and experiences we not only have a significantly better chance of resisting the pressure of external proposals, but we can also work together in creating a vision of diversity and sustainability for the future.

During the evening we were asked some key questions including; what positive actions could we do as a community? Could we identify key visions, obstacles and strategies for any potential marine and coastal group on Jura? What is our long-term vision for Jura's marine environment? Emerging themes included; sustainable fishing practices, abundant and diverse wildlife and opportunities for recreational activities and eco-tourism. If we don't positively create and actively fight for the type of environment we want our island to sustain, then it will be decided for us by policies made elsewhere and big corporations. It has therefore never been more important that we identify and communicate our own vision clearly. Working with the CCN the Wild Side of Jura hope to establish a locally focused marine and coastal conservation group. In 50 years' time we want our seas to be teeming with life and our marine resources continuing to support our coastal communities.



There has also been work going behind the scenes. Information regarding marine ecosystems is limited; compared to our terrestrial habitats and species; but no less important. We wanted to see what lies beneath the waves around Jura and we now are in ownership of an underwater camera. We have already had a few test runs but hope to involve the expertise of a local marine biologist to discover a whole new world.



We would like to thank everyone who has supported us so far, locals and the wider public. Special thanks to Runatallain Estate, Dunlossit Estate, Jura Boat Tours, Jura Development Trust, Jura Hotel, Islay Buildbase, Islay Development Initiative, Coastal Communities Network and Friends of the Sound of Jura. If you would like any further information on our activities, including the report from the Coastal Communities Network evening, or would like to be involved further, please email wildsideofjura@gmail.com or go to our facebook page 'Wild Side of Jura'.