

Perils of plastic shapes Lola's art installation

A Year 12 student who visited Belize as part of a marine conservation study has produced an art installation highlighting the problems of plastic in the ocean.

Lola Berni, a volunteer with the international charity, Frontier, was selected to represent Sefton County Girlguiding through her work with the 14th Crosby Brownies.

As part of the work, Lola carried out studies on coral reefs and manatees, which are slow moving whales, and their habitat. She also took part in beach clean-ups and taught local children about how they can protect the marine environment.

Upon her return to Crosby, Lola set about producing an art installation, highlighting the dangers of plastic in the ocean.

Lola explained more, both about her trip to Belize and the artwork it inspired. She said: "I am a Young Leader with the 14th Crosby Brownies, which is about Girlguiding adventures for 7 to 10-year-olds. "I was selected to represent Sefton County Girlguiding on a marine conservation trip to Belize in August.

Threat

"I was volunteering with the international charity, Frontier, to survey manatees and their habitat. Manatees are adorable, slow-moving whales, which are under threat from humans.

"We did coral reef studies, organised beach clean-ups and taught local children about how they and their families can protect the marine environment.

"Inspired by my marine conservation trip to Belize and the prominent problem of plastic in our oceans, I decided to bring the issue to life with an artistic depiction of the effect of the plastic on marine wildlife.

"The world produces more than 300 mil-



lion tonnes of plastic every year. That is the equivalent to a large garbage truck of plastic backing up into the ocean every minute of every day.

"Almost all plastic ever made is still on the planet in some form or another. Unless we re-use, reduce and recycle, it will continue to coat our land and ocean like a disease.

"We asked parents of pupils, staff and the school to donate their used bottles and waste to recycle for the artwork.

"This made everyone conscious of the amount of plastic they use and in the future they will hopefully realise how this leads to a massive quantity discarded that is greatly affecting our environment.

"With help from a Year 9 Art class (pictured p2), Head of Year 11, Mrs Bennett, school staff and Adam Boyle (12C), we managed to complete most of the installation the day before the Heart of Crosby festival.

"Plastic bottles were cut into different shapes to make shoals of fish and jellyfish, before being painted with a rainbow of colours. The fishing net overflowing with rubbish emanates how soon there will be no fish to catch in the sea, only the litter that will take over the oceans if we do not save it."

"Many of the 400 primary school pupils at the Heart of Crosby festival came to the installation.

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“They enjoyed learning about my trip to Belize and my motive for the art piece. Great Crosby had done a similar piece with plastic bottles and took some ideas away.

“An unmoving mermaid lying curled up on the seabed, turned away from the viewer, is surrounded by unrecycled plastic lids and bottle-ends. The manatees that I surveyed in Belize were often mistaken for mermaids when they were out at sea; plastic has the same effect on them.

“By 2050, the amount of plastic in our ocean is estimated to be the same to the amount of fish in weight.

“Now, the average weight of plastic killing birds in their digestive system is the equivalent to 6-8kg in the human stomach, that is about 12 pizzas in your stomach.

“However, plastic does not just affect the 90% of all sea birds that are estimated to have consumed plastic at some point in their lives, but also 800 species of marine wildlife.

“Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean is home to a large population of Laysan albatross. They travel thousands of miles across the ocean, picking up plastic from the surface and bring it back to the island to feed their baby chicks.

“The parents and their young are dying every day because of punctures to their organs and choking from the plastic. It is no secret that turtles, dolphins, whales, jellyfish, sea lions and many species have lost limbs and their lives because of it.”

“Ironically, the ocean creates shown are made out of the very thing destroying them. Our addiction to plastic conveys the Plastic Earth we live in. Rwanda is one of the few countries to ban plastic bags and the Haiti Plastic Bank trades recycled plastic for charging phones and cash. Starbucks will stop handing out plastic straws by 2020.”



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News in brief

On Friday, school photographs will be taken and there is a Year 12 Adventure trip taking place.

Also on Friday, there is a Charity Race Night taking place from 7.30pm at Lower Site. Tickets costing £5 are available from the school office.

Netball news

Our netball teams were action last week against Merchant Taylors. Our Y7s won 15-2, Y8s lost 13-8, Y9s won 10-2, Y10s lost 9-7, Y11s won 12-2 and our 6th Form team won 29-13. Well done to all our teams.