

values and... place for cultural isolation.

Recycling victory

WALK along a Scottish beach and you will, say experts, come across a discarded bottle or can every ten feet or so.

That is shaming for a country famed for its natural beauty and glorious environment. Much of this sort of junk ends up in the sea where it wreaks havoc on sealife and can enter the food chain.

And the scale of the issue is huge. Each British household uses an estimated 480 plastic bottles per year - but even with extensive council-run kerbside recycling, around 270 of those are dumped.

This means that, of 35 million bottles used very day across Britain, around 16 million are not going to recycling.

But action is on the way here as the Scottish Government has heeded the Mail's appeal for a bottle deposit scheme.

Under such a system, customers pay a few pence extra for every single-use drinks container they purchase.

When the container is recycled, the deposit is returned. It's a brilliantly simple system which many readers will recall worked in Scotland for decades with glass soft-drinks bottles.

Results from countries who already operate deposit schemes are astounding. Germany is close to recycling 100 per cent of its single-use containers.

In Canada, those few containers not returned by customers are a handy 'cash crop' for youth groups and the like who organise pick-ups.

The public want change, the industry itself is aboard. Coca-Cola is one of the world's largest manufacturers of plastic bottles and it backs the Scottish scheme as a way of getting more of them into recycling, not landfill or sullyng the countryside and sea.

So over now to the politicians who can deliver a major boost for the environment and prevent a toxic legacy of junk plaguing future generations.