



I know that many of you have already started to think about your spring litter picking activities and we thought a timely bulletin might help your cause. Of course for some the litter picking hasn't relented over the winter months. The LitterAction [events calendar](#) tells me that more than 10 different groups held litter picking events over December and January. I'm full of admiration for all those that braved the cold to take part, so congratulations to all involved.

## **LitterAction Survey 2009**

Before Christmas we sent out a survey to all group coordinators registered on the LitterAction website. Thank you to all that filled it in - it has certainly given us a lot of food for thought. The results are really useful for CPRE and CleanupUK and as well as learning lots about the groups on the website, the survey will also help us to address some of the operational problems that groups encounter. We will focus our attention on helping with issues such as recruiting members, getting sufficient people involved in activities, providing information on litter issues from a national perspective and getting good PR.

On a more positive note the survey also revealed lots of really encouraging information about our groups. Our youngest litter picker is just 3 years old and our eldest is almost 90. We learned that LitterAction has access to a network of over 6,000 people who regularly pick up litter and that 85% of groups are either growing in size or remain the same in number.

## **Insurance**

One thing that we identified as a common problem for groups is the issue of insurance. I know from having spoken to many group coordinators that this can be a real issue for voluntary litter picking groups. Our survey revealed that exactly half (50%) of the groups registered on the website are covered by insurance and the other half are not. Further to that; for the 50% without insurance - 92% of those groups didn't think it was a problem not to have any.

Many groups are covered by parish councils, local authorities, CPRE branches or through other organisations such as BTCV. Others get their members to sign full disclaimers. We realise that insurance represents a real issue for some so we have tried to provide as much information as possible to help on our recently updated [insurance page in the information section](#) on LitterAction. We are also happy for you to email us any queries you may have, and we are always looking to update the content of the site with your solutions. Do [let us know](#).

## **LitterAction progress**

Over winter LitterAction has grown by another 21 groups and our bag total has risen above 33,200. At a national level we have been able to demonstrate the contribution volunteers are making to clearing up litter at exhibitions in Parliament, in meetings with MPs, government officials and to all the other organisations involved in the 'litter scene'. This work will continue in 2010 as we campaign to turn the tide in the battle against litter which without your contribution simply wouldn't be possible.

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## Litter-Free Guiseley Campaign

I couldn't finish this bulletin without mentioning Jeff Yates of [The Litter-Free Guiseley campaign](#). The group recently smashed through the 1,000 sacks of litter mark. Having spoken with Jeff before I know how dedicated he is to improving the environment around his home in Guiseley, West Yorkshire. You are a real inspiration Jeff - thank you for all you do.

That's all from me. Roll on spring ...

Will Gates  
CPRE & LitterAction

P.s. Stop the Drop is supporting the British Waterways Towpath Tidy initiative which begins on 1st March. We encourage all groups and individuals to take a look at the [Waterscape website](#) and join an event near you.

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