

Good Morning

Welcome to the LitterAction mid-summer bulletin. Looking at the LitterAction record of litter collected in June, it's clear that you've all been really busy since we were last in touch at the end of May. But there is one very special mention that we would like to make:



Tipton Litter Watch

Tipton Litter Watch is a local charity based in Sandwell in the West Midlands and is led by Lindsay Richmond. Lindsay is a hyper-energetic lady and has been hard at it in June, organising cleanups left, right and centre. The result of Lindsay's efforts is that an amazing 3,090 bags of litter were collected in

Sandwell as part of their Big Spring Clean campaign. As my friend Will Gates at CPRE would say - that's over 4 Tyrannosaurus Rexs. Or, as I prefer to see it, it's the weight of around 3½ Routemaster buses. But whichever way you look at it, that's a fantastic achievement for one month.

What is more, Tipton Litter Watch has just been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which recognises the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. So, three cheers to Lindsay and her team!

Stars of June

Our congratulations also go to [Welwyn Village Cleanup Group](#) (based at Welwyn, Hertfordshire), [Eden Cleanup](#) (Penrith, Cumbria) and [Walderslade](#) (West Malling, Kent) who all collected over 100 bags of rubbish in June. It's really good to see litter action taking place the length and breadth of the country.

But we should stress that size isn't everything. Collecting even a couple bags of litter can make as much difference to a community as picking up 100 bags, so please don't think that we are ignoring those of you who aren't scoring in the big league.

Make the most of your LitterAction webpage

Will mentioned in the last bulletin that we have added some new features for you on the website to make managing your webpage easier and more flexible. Do please update your details and add to your tally of bags collected and also include your upcoming events if you haven't already done so - you can find some helpful instructions on the "help" menu via this link:

<http://www.litteraction.org.uk/help/managing-your-page>. As more and more people hear about LitterAction, your webpage will be a great way of finding new recruits for your group, so do make sure that someone in your group keeps your webpage

regularly updated.

Pick of LitterAction

Do you need to raise some funding for your group ? Even if you've already managed to secure some grants, do you need some fresh ideas ? If so, have a look at the Funding section of the [Information Centre](#) and open the really useful article that Dick Macaulay of Sandbach Clean Team has kindly written for us - it may give you some new ideas and some much-needed inspiration.

Rubbish Tips

Sorry about another awful pun, but we will, from time to time, include some tips that may help you run your group more easily. For a start, our tip for July is this very simple point : when you send a press release to your local paper about your group's activities - perhaps you are wanting to gain some publicity for a future litter-pick or you are submitting a report on a cleanup that you have just done - remember to include your LitterAction webpage address in the press release so that potential new recruits can look at your webpage and register as members of your group. You can copy your group's webpage address from the header line at the very top of your webpage e.g. www.litteraction.org.uk/oldbury-clean-team.

The LitterAction Forum - an apology

I am sorry to report that we have, in recent weeks, experienced a number of unacceptable postings on the LitterAction forum. The word "unacceptable" is a fairly neutral word for some of the postings that have appeared and we offer you our unreserved apologies if you have happened to see anything offensive on the forum. I stress, though, that these postings have been made by people who have no connection with LitterAction - they were certainly not made by legitimately signed-up forum members.

For this reason, Will and I have reluctantly had to take the decision to moderate all forum postings for the time being. This means that, when you post a comment on the LitterAction forum, there will be a delay while Will or I check that it is a legitimate posting. We apologise for this as we appreciate that posting comments in real time is an enjoyable experience but we hope that you will agree with us that a short delay is an acceptable price to pay to avoid unpleasant or irrelevant postings appearing.

Now that we've got over this hiccup, please do try out the forum if you haven't yet done so - it's a great opportunity for sharing views and ideas and for asking the LitterAction community for help with any problems that you've got.

That's all for now. Have a great summer and we'll speak with you again soon.

George Monck
CleanupUK and LitterAction