

KINGS HEATH & BRANDWOOD LITTER PICKERS


Newsletter - September 2023



Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of our new newsletter! We hope you enjoy reading it.

If you have ideas for future editions or would like to contribute, please email us at: B14litterpickers@gmail.com

If you would like to join our group, please email us or visit our facebook page 



Chair's update

First of all, thank you for being a Kings Heath and Brandwood Litter Picker. Although there will always be issues, I know our streets look better because people tell me so.

We work closely with and have links with other organisations too which helps a lot e.g. Kings Heath Business Improvement District (BID), Moseley Litter Busters, Our Scene and Friends of Dawberry Fields. This means that we can share information and help each other out.

For example, Our Scene have started an Active 8 project so that people without equipment can join in. And if anyone joins us on a Sunday at 10am on York Road, they can access equipment from the pet shop, who are kindly storing some for us.

It has been a great litter picking year. Between June 2022 and July 2023, we dedicated an average of 157 voluntary hours a month. And these are just the hours we report. I am sure there is more litter picking going on out there that I don't know about.

I get great satisfaction from litter picking and I hope you do too. The opportunity to chat to people and the satisfaction of cleaning a street give me a buzz that can't be beaten.

Keep at it and thank you again for all you do.

Andrea x

❖ **3,781.5 volunteer hours recorded – June 2021 to August 2023**

❖ **An average of 140 hours a month**

October Diary Dates (see www.ourscene.org/active8/ for details)

Every Wednesday

FRIENDS OF LIFFORD RESERVOIR & WOODLAND LITTER PICKS

Meet Tunnel Lane, Kings Norton B30 3JN

1:00pm-2:00pm

Saturday 7th October

AUTUMN COMMUNITY DAY (family-friendly)

Dawberry Fields Park, Brandwood Park Road & Allens Croft Road, B14 6QR

12:00pm-3:00pm

Sunday 8th October

KINGS HEATH & BRANDWOOD LITTER PICKERS

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

10:00am-11:00am

Monday 9th October

FRIENDS OF DAWBERRY FIELDS PARK LITTER PICK 'N NATTER

Brandwood Park Road, B14 6QR

10:30am-12:00pm

Sunday 15th October

KINGS HEATH & BRANDWOOD LITTER PICKERS

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

10:00am-11:30am

Wednesday 18th October

KINGS HEATH & BRANDWOOD LITTER PICKERS

Meet Dawberry Road (by alley to Kings Road), B14 6RY

6:30pm-8:00pm

Saturday 21st October

FRIENDS OF BILLESLEY COMMON CONSERVATION WORK DAY

Yardley Wood Road, B13 0PT

10:00am-12:00pm

FRIENDS OF KINGS HEATH PARK LITTER PICK

Vicarage Road, B14 7TQ

10:30am-11:30am

Sunday 22nd & Sunday 29th October

KINGS HEATH & BRANDWOOD LITTER PICKERS

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

10:00am-11:00am

Group Notes

Grot Spot of the Month (off Heathfield Road)



If you see a 'grot spot' please report it to the group. You can also report problems on www.fixmystreet.com

Strange item of waste (found on York Road)



Please share photos of strange items of waste that you find. The stranger the better!

Kit notes

Kit for **loan** to our litter pickers includes:

- ❖ Grabber
- ❖ Ring to hold blue rubbish bags open
- ❖ Blue rubbish bags
- ❖ Gloves
- ❖ High Viz vest
- ❖ There are brooms and brushes if needed.
- ❖ There are also smaller grabbers available for children to use

We will provide details of how to get hold of kit if you decide to join us.

Please return any unused kit to 'York Supplies' on Waterloo Road.

Local businesses are getting involved too!

It's great that local businesses are getting involved with litter picking and the Group and we want to encourage more to do the same.

Andrea, our Chair, recently caught up with 'Mabs' from 'Cartridge and Print' to find out why he has got involved and the difference it is making to his business.

Andrea: So Mabs, why did you decide to get involved in litter picking and with our Group?

Mabs: Well Andrea, it was because I love doing business in Kings Heath but I was increasingly getting annoyed with the litter outside the front of my shop and across the car park. Also, because I feel strongly that Kings Heath needs to be an attractive area for shopping, eating and drinking. An untidy, dirty shopping centre puts people off from returning. If a place is tidy then it tends to remain that way.

Andrea: And what difference have you been able to make?

Mabs: Things have improved but there are still people who park and tip their fast food cartons out. Unfortunately people often see it as someone else's job to pick up the litter.

Andrea: What do you think is needed to improve things?


Mabs: Children need to be educated by their parents. Businesses could take more of an active role - especially fast food outlets – to police their own frontage and make sure it is litter free. To be fair a few businesses do sweep the front of their premises, but the more who do it the better. Also, I think we need more bins, especially where there are fast food restaurants. There are also some issues with commercial bins. Some companies need bigger ones as often they are overflowing.

Andrea: And finally, Mabs, what do you love about Kings Heath?

Mabs: Well Andrea, since I started my business in Kings Heath in 2003 I have never looked back. Business has been good and I have been able to adapt over the years and to develop the business, often through requests from customers e.g. poster printing, photos, return labels and more recently vapes but not the disposable kind.

What I love most about Kings Heath is the diversity of people. In Kings Heath we are all different shapes, ages, colours and sizes. I also welcome the mix of businesses. I believe that there is a lot to attract people to the area. We just need to eliminate litter in Kings Heath!

Andrea: Thank you, Mabs, for sharing your experience and thoughts with us. Hopefully it will inspire other local businesses to do the same.

If your business is already litter picking, worried about litter and wants to get involved, please get in touch via: B14litterpickers@gmail.com or our Facebook page: 

We would love to hear from you and to support you in making a difference to Kings Heath and your business!

Litter in the news: Big Ballot Bins



Images: Hubbub

Manchester City Council environmental charity Hubbub and KFC are running a trial of innovative ways of reducing litter in the city and encouraging people to put their rubbish in the bin.

Ballot bins, which are based on proven behaviour change principles, aim to encourage people to put their rubbish in the bin by given them the chance to vote with their rubbish on funny topics.

The bins use sensors to count up the rubbish and keep track of the score on a digital screen.

Once they have thrown their rubbish away in the new bins, people are being encouraged to share their opinions on social media with the hashtag #PickYourSideMCR.

The project's impact will be measured to monitor litter levels and to see whether a similar scheme could work in other cities.

Source: Manchester Evening News, 19th July 2023

Puzzles & Games

Word search: how many items of common litter can you identify?

Litter

Z S Y H H N A J D F J B E P J K I E H T V Z W N
O P A Y O H M M E T A L B O T T L E T O P S H Y
D A S P S R I I P W F I N H S A Z W J P D L P C
S C Q S G A B C I T S A L P R E H T O N A W I P
U E W Q L O Z S H G H U I G E N I U G J L I S U
F L L O G H E G O U U R Z M R H G O Z V L D I S
V T S T M R X A N D U K R G R A T S C Y I X J C
K T C J T Q H B U Q Y I Q W I L L N D L S N K C
F O Y I Z O T Y F C L H P P T R Z G C J R K D X
G B Z X J N B R U J I E G U S Z C I N X E C S G
K C J H U T R E M P Y G A T X H T T O T P H W I
Z I L D G E K C G E W I A C Q S I W T H P M F X
J T J B G K G O T A F I G R A F K S X P A T Z O
P S F P F C Z R P R R K M L E J W Y E G R S O J
T A M F E A B G W L V E P Y N T M Z E S W Q J G
L L B T X P S C N B A X V M M D T R L B D E K R
V P L D N P V I X J F S C E B H A E P T O Z S F
J Y D U L S J T R F J W T J B U I E B T O G W J
A H D E V I E S N A Z L D I S S Q Z G U F O A G

Competition entry:

To enter our prize draw with the chance to win your own set of “grabbers”, submit your answers to: B14litterpickers@gmail.com by the end of November.