



KINGS HEATH & BRANDWOOD LITTER PICKERS


Spring Newsletter – March 2024



Welcome!

Welcome to the Spring edition of our 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 



Our Spring Litter Picks:

March:

Sunday 3rd, 10th, 24th March

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

10:00am-11:00am

Sunday 17th March

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

10:00am-11:30am

April:

Sunday 7th, 14th, 28th April

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

10:00am-11:00am

Sunday 21st April

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

10:00am-11:30am

May:

Sunday 5th, 12th, 26th April

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

10:00am-11:00am

Sunday 19th April

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

10:00am-11:30am

Other Groups' Litter Picks

For details of other local litter picking groups see pages 6 and 7.

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.



Chair's update

Welcome to our Spring newsletter

Our intrepid litter pickers have been braving the cold weather, rain and wind to ensure that our streets are as clean as possible. I would like to give a special thanks to Julia and Chris who have gone above and beyond in the hours they have walked the streets with their grabbers and bags.

Litter picking is a great way to volunteer and it's great to see young people getting involved including Colmore Junior School's Social Action Club and one of our younger members who is litter picking as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award (page 3).

With reports in the news highlighting the problem of fly-tipping on public and private land and calls for tighter controls, we ask that you look out for 'grot spots' and fly-tipping in Kings Heath and Brandwood, and either report any problems on <https://www.fixmystreet.com> (see page 4) or let us know via bi4litterpickers@gmail.com

A fellow litter picker and I recently sorted out the rubbish behind the Heritage Estate agents on Poplar Road and in this issue, we highlight the problem of fly-tipping on Ashfield Road Car Park in Kings Heath (see page 4).

We also need more volunteers to keep an eye on certain roads, for example Wheelers Lane, so please let us know if you are interested in 'adopting' a road.

Now that Spring is on the way, it's a great time of year to get involved in litter picking. Our dates are on the front-page of this newsletter and in this issue, we 'spotlight' other groups litter picking locally and how you can get involved (pages 5-7).

Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' runs from 15th to 31st March, and we will be submitting our volunteer numbers and hours and 'number of bags filled' into them. 'Keep Britain Tidy' report that 85% of those who took part last year said they felt more pride in their local area and 74% said it improved their mood.

And why not join this year's 'Big Plastic Count' from 11th to 17th March? For further details and tips on recycling, see 'Newshound's Recycling Corner' on page 8.

Litter picking is fun and gives the satisfaction of a clean street, chats with appreciative people, time to think and good exercise. So please carry on doing the great work.

Andrea x

P.S. If you can no longer continue to litter pick, for whatever reason, then please contact me on 07711 614134 either by text or phone call.



Volunteer Hours

- ❖ 4,451 volunteer hours recorded – June 2021 to January 2024
- ❖ An average of nearly 140 hours a month

School Volunteering

On Monday 5 Feb, Colmore Junior School's afterschool Social Action Club did a litter pick with Ruth and Suze along Grove Road, Partons Road and through the alley to Dawberry Road in Brandwood. They did an amazing job and enjoyed rich pickings with the raptors! It was brilliant that their efforts were thanked by so many passers- by on foot and from cars. Most of the children said they loved the experience - even though this was accompanied by humorous chants as we walked along about child labour! No, not child labour... Active Citizens!! This is the second litter pick we have done with the school in the last 6 months as children work towards their Active8 badges. The great news is that the school has just received their own litter picking equipment from the council so they can litter pick on a more regular basis.



Litter Picking for a Duke of Edinburgh Award

My name is Rowan, I'm 17 years old, and I started litter picking last year for my Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Award has four sections: learning or improving a skill, a physical activity, an expedition, and volunteering. My mum is a member of Kings Heath and Brandwood Litter Pickers and suggested I do litter picking for the volunteering section. It's ideal because I can easily fit it into my routine. For the Bronze Award, I have to do one hour a week for three months. I enjoy going with my mum to meet up with the other litter pickers on Sunday mornings (although it's sometimes hard to get up!). It's more fun as a group and the litter pickers are a friendly bunch. It's very satisfying to make a visible difference to your environment, and we get lots of encouraging comments from people passing by. One lady even honked at us and gave us a big thumbs-up from her car! I would recommend doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award to anyone because it makes you try new things and it's great for your CV. And litter picking is a brilliant way to volunteer!



If you experience fly tipping such as an abandoned fridge or furniture or a lot of rubbish in your street you can report it to the website www.fixmystreet.com who will alert Birmingham City Council.

Simply go to the website, enter the postcode and location of the problem and describe the nature of the problem. You can upload a photograph.

Fix My Street can be used to report a number of problems including abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, graffiti, potholes and broken street lights.

Grot Spot

With the Council having limited powers to deal with fly-tipping and rubbish on private land, we aim to encourage private landowners to clear up their land by drawing attention to these 'grot spots' in our newsletter.

One such 'grot spot' is **Ashfield Road Car Park** off Valentine Road in Kings Heath where fly-tipping is making life unpleasant for local residents.



If you come across a 'grot spot', please let us know and we can help raise awareness of the problem, including through this newsletter.



‘Spotlight’: other local litter picking groups....

Here are details of some of the other local groups involved in litter picking and how you can find out more:

Friends of Kings Heath Park

The Friends of Kings Heath Park has been in existence since 2017. We were formed to support the marvellous horticultural and ranger teams at the Park; in keeping Kings Heath Park as a great community place. We are mainly involved with seasonal social events and regular litter picks which are all park based.

As a small Committee we are always aware that we have only so much time and energy. However we would like some more committee members and volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more, why not come and visit us on Saturday 9th March in Park House, Room K2 @11.30am – 1pm for a cup of tea or coffee or visit our facebook page: [Friends of Kings Heath Park | Facebook](#)

Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery

The Friends were formed in 2005 following concerns about the deterioration of the chapels and cemetery at that time. The objects of the Friends are: to promote for the benefit of the local community and others, the restoration, conservation and respectful enjoyment of Brandwood End Cemetery and Chapels. We organise a range of activities from gardening to historical research that we promote on our noticeboards, social media and web site: <http://www.fbec.org.uk> . Our regular activities are quarterly litter picks, monthly gardening, annual Heritage events and our annual Remembrance service.

Billesley Bin Baggers

Billesley Bin Baggers is a litter picking collective with 151 members on its Facebook page at [\(20+\) Billesley Bin Baggers | Facebook](#). Birmingham City Council (BCC) provide free gloves, litter pickers and bag hoops as well as distinctive blue bags. We report the hours spent by our volunteers in return for membership of Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) and we also tell BCC where we have left our bags for them to come and collect them. Members litter pick around their own streets, preferably in pairs. Sometimes a larger event is organised to tackle a grot spot and information will be on the Facebook page.

You can join by emailing billesleybinbaggers@gmail.com or by messaging Beryl, the administrator on the Facebook page.



Friends of Trittiford Mill Pool and Park

The Friends of Trittiford Mill Pool and Park work with our Park Ranger to look after it. We litter pick, coppice the woodland, plant trees, educate the public on what to feed to the waterfowl, clear paths, remove fallen trees, report fly tipping, defeat attempts to steal fish, lead bat walks, plant bulbs, and apply for grants to improve the environment. We will be erecting new information signs and also, in partnership with Beautifying Billesley, decorating the electricity sub-station with a mural depicting a heron, a grebe, a greylag goose, and a kingfisher, all found at Trittiford.

To join either email trittifordfriends@gmail.com or go to our Facebook page at [\(20+\) Friends of Trittiford park and surroundings | Facebook](#). We notify members of workdays through our WhatsApp group and there is one a month.

Friends of Dawberry Fields Park

Dawberry Fields Park is a hidden 20 acre gem in the Brandwood area of Kings Heath. There is a wealth of biodiversity along its ancient brook & hidden wild areas with varied wildlife that changes with the seasons. There is a secret orchard! We have a skatebowl which was recently 'perked up' with some colourful street art and you can sit awhile on any of our colourful benches decorated with inspiring quotes chosen by our local children. Our main entrances are on Brandwood Park Road and Allens Croft Road next to the school where there is a small car park and fun playground. A figure of 8 path is popular with dog walkers & runners. We organise litter picks, Summer fun days & regular 'natter & litter picks'.

You can contact the Group via: <https://www.facebook.com/DawberryFields> or friendsofdawberryfields@gmail.com

Moseley Litterbusters

Moseley Litterbusters is a group of volunteers dedicated to: Keeping Moseley Clean, involving local citizens and working in partnership with Birmingham City Council, businesses, schools and other community organisations. They meet every Sunday morning on Moseley village green, St Mary's Row as well as other locations around Moseley and Balsall Heath. Everybody is welcome. Litter grabbers, gloves and bags are provided. They also support volunteers who wish to litter pick on their own or in smaller groups. They can also help you organise and publicise your own litter picks.

If you want to 'adopt a street' or want more information, please email moseleylitterbusters@gmail.com



.....and some of the organisations that support them

Kings Heath Neighbourhood Forum

The Kings Heath Neighbourhoods Forum covers all neighbourhoods within or overlapping the Brandwood and Kings Heath ward; all residents are automatically members. At the annual AGM a Management Committee is elected that is responsible for planning, advertising, and running open meetings, such as election hustings and other meetings on topics of current interest. The Management Committee meets monthly (usually on the second Tuesday of the month, starting at 7 o'clock) and those meetings are open to interested residents (subject to the approval of the Chair). It is here where we get updates from the two Ward Councillors, the BID Manager, and the Neighbourhood Action Coordinator, and where all kinds of matters of concern can be raised. The Management Committee aims to support and work closely with all community groups, such as the Litter Pickers, but also with authorities such as the Police and the Council. We maintain a website at <https://kingsheathforum.org.uk> and post on Facebook.

BOSF (Birmingham Open Spaces Forum)

BOSF is a volunteer network organisation, set up at the end of 2004, that brings together all the community groups in Birmingham with an interest in green open spaces. Our main focus is supporting the volunteers who add value to the city's open spaces. BOSF offers opportunities for groups and individuals interested in open spaces to share knowledge and experience. We produce regular updates about funding sources, training opportunities, events in open spaces and lots of useful information. We can put you in touch with other member groups who have experiences that might be useful to you. We organise meetings and training opportunities. Any group can become a member. The main criteria is that the group must consist of local residents, who have a constitution, and are looking after a local park, open space or street, in the Birmingham area. For more information see [Birmingham Open Spaces Forum | Birmingham Open Spaces Forum \(bosf.org.uk\)](https://bosf.org.uk)

Our Scene CIC (<https://ourscene.org>)

Our Scene is a Brandwood based non-profit community development organisation who have been running the Neighbourhood Matters project (one of the City Council's Neighbourhood Action Coordination pilots) in Brandwood and Kings Heath and Billesley wards since Jan 2023. One of their areas of work has been building capacity for voluntary and community groups like ours through networking events and promotion. Amongst a range of activities, they have coordinated the Active8 scheme, litter picking events with Colmore Junior School and tackling 'grot spot' alleyways in Brandwood with our help. Their Council contract ends in March.



Newshound's 'Recycling Corner'

Many households regularly recycle paper and cardboard, cans, plastic bottles and glass in City Council bins which are collected from our doorsteps every fortnight.

There are other items of waste which can also be easily recycled locally. Here are some pointers:

Batteries

Many shops on Kings Heath High Street have battery collection containers including: **Superdrug, Poundland, Lidl** and **Sainsbury's**.

Away from the High Street, batteries are collected at **Tesco** opposite the Crown Pub on Alcester Road and **One Stop Stores** on Vicarage Road and Broad Lane.



Recyclenow.com

This website provides information on what you can recycle at home or in your local area – including a Recycling Locator with details of your nearest recycling locations and where you can recycle specific items:

<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator>

Plastic Wrapping

The number of plastic wrapping collection points has increased significantly in recent years.

The type of plastic wrapping which can be collected includes crisp and sweet packets, bread bags, cereal bags and kitchen roll wrapping.

Collection points in Brandwood and Kings Heath are located at **Lidl** and **Sainsbury's**.



'The Big Plastic Count'

Why don't you join the UK's biggest plastic investigation by counting your plastic for one week in **March (11th-17th)** – helping to convince UK ministers to lead the way in phasing out plastic pollution for good.

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>