

NewsFeature



**Helen Flynn,
of Friends of
Abingdon,
reports on
AbiBinit!**



Civic PRIDE

Join us in campaign to make difference to how town looks

ABIBINIT! has been running for some 18 months now and, during this time, we have been amazed by the amount of local people of all ages who are willing to give up their time to join our monthly group litter picks, riverbank clean-ups, or work under their own steam litter picking their areas on a regular basis.

We also have a number of retailers and businesses onboard, who regularly clean up around the outside their premises, keeping them free of litter and cigarette butts. As one businessman told me: "The outside of my premises reflects what I think of my business and, ultimately, of myself."

There are many groups throughout Abingdon with enthusiastic volunteers working towards the same goal, which is to enhance all that is good about Abingdon while trying to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate what is not so attractive.

Whilst we are under no illusion that we have beaten the war against litter, with currently over 150 members on our Facebook page spreading the word we feel that the message is getting out there.

Everyone can make a small difference on a regular basis, by picking up litter for no better reason than that they love and respect where they live. After all, our surroundings are a reflection of how we see ourselves; only a sick animal fouls its own nest. If every person picked up just one piece of litter, it would possibly remove a staggering 30,000 pieces from the town's streets, which would make a huge difference.

We tidy up our homes when they look messy. However, sometimes we're not so quick to consider the appearance of the world beyond our front doors. Doing little things like picking up some litter and reporting areas that need a more robust clean helps to keep our community looking its best.

The costs associated with cleaning up our town can run into millions; money that could go towards providing other services to those who need them most.

We all want a strong community, where everyone feels they have a place, and civic pride is all about bringing communities together for the greater good. Spreading this message is something that we can all do on a daily basis, by looking after our neighbourhood and surroundings.

If you are fed up with the amount of litter and mess in your area, please get in touch with AbiBinit! and join us and the many other Abingdon residents who want to do something about it and spread the word.

You can find out more about AbiBinit! and our group litter-picks on September 28 and October 19 at <https://friendsofabingdon.org.uk/civic-community/abibinit-litter-picking/>