



Jan 2024 Newsletter

WINTER UPDATE*

** We are still in the midst of winter and have seen the devastation of Storm Henk. As I write we have Storm Isha and the forecast tomorrow is high winds and temperature between 4 – 11 Celsius*

Due to personal circumstances at the end of last year, the intended Autumn newsletter and October litterpick event was cancelled at relatively short notice. Please accept my apologies. A series of dates for 2024 are detailed at the end of this newsletter.

2023 Autumn River tidy up

Because there was no Autumn newsletter, I'll summarise the pick report that was published in the Facebook group pages. September 16th was another fantastic group turn out with representatives from AbiBinit!, Kingfisher Canoe club, Carbon Cutters, Abingdon Against Plastic, AV Boats, Sustrans, Rotary and Abingdon Lions. Additionally, we had many individuals come and join to make this a fantastic turnout.

The total number of bags collected was 28, 10 of which were tin, plastic and glass for recycling so saved from landfill.

An assortment of larger and 'odder' items: 4 footballs, 2 shopping baskets, set of tent pegs, shoes x 12 (no pairs), new looking crowbar, a saucepan, a functioning fishing lure and a "No Photography" sign were recovered.

Huge thanks to Anne Smart and Jen Clough for coordinating support and to each and every person who gave their time to this. Team Abingdon Win! 🙌🙌🙌

Latest pick report and events

At the end of 2023 I put together plans for a New Years pick on Sat 6th January focussing on the Ock Walk and surrounding areas. Sadly, Storm Henk rolled across the UK causing widespread flooding for some areas and leaving a number of houses and businesses in Abingdon affected. With the Ock itself still overflowing we delayed the meet until the following weekend, 13th Jan. By this time the Walk was clear and Henk had left behind a huge amount of debris for us to hunt down.

A tremendous turnout of 20 good souls resulted in over 30 bags of rubbish collected, over half of which were recyclable products. Rusty bike, tyre, 'Keep Left' bollard and a myriad of strange artefacts were gathered together.

I'll plan on getting a photo of you all BEFORE we start next time! There are more pictures on the Facebook group. Another great result!

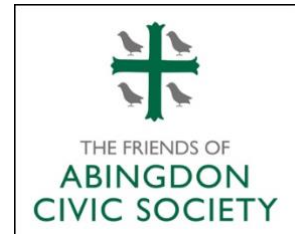


We also have two new participants of the [Duke of Edinburgh Award](#) (Bronze) scheme who have started their 13-week activity in this very challenging January! If you know a young person who would like to volunteer in a similar manner for their DoE award, please get in touch.

Keeping in touch: email, website and social media

Just a brief reminder that you can keep in touch via the events@abibinit.org email address. If you want to be added to round robin email updates and the quarterly newsletters simply drop an email to that address with the subject of 'subscribe'. Of course, if you'd like emails to stop simply send an email indicating you'd like to be removed.

AbiBinIt! are proud to be affiliated with the Friends of Abingdon Civic Society and I strongly encourage you to visit their site and consider joining. <https://abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk/>



least

The Friends of Abingdon support our group in a number of ways – not providing us with space and administration of the following page on their website to promote our events and provide signposts for supporting contacts and sites. *Huge thanks again to Ray Hand for the website support!* <https://abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk/activities/abibinit-litter-picking-initiative/>



For those that do use social media, we will continue to use the [Facebook group](#) for day-to-day news and event updates. If you are heading out to carry out an independent pick this group is a great way to reach out to the other members if you want some company. There have been some great posts from individuals on this group: please keep sharing your pictures, reports and events which are in line with our theme. You may well inspire someone else to do the same. ❤️

And finally...

The following dates are now planned but I'm more than happy for [feedback](#) with suggestions for other dates and locations. If you'd like to register as attending please drop an email to events@abibinit.org – this simply helps with planning to ensure we have sufficient equipment.

Sat 24th Feb – 10am to 12 noon Reynolds Way / Gainsborough Green
Sat 23rd March – 10 am to 1pm Town Centre
Sat 6th April – time TBC base at the Rye farm meadow (River / Road / Town)
Sat 8th June – 10 am to 1pm Team Abingdon River Pick. Abingdon Lock
Sat 10th August – *to be confirmed*
Sat 7th September – 10 am to 1pm Team Abingdon River Pick. Abingdon Lock
Sat 5th October – *to be confirmed*

- The Abingdon River Picks usually bring together several community groups. We have taken guidance from the Kingfisher Canoe club in moving this date back a little in the calendar. It is anticipated that the Thames will still be running high and fast in the Spring and with this in mind the first big River date on land and river will take place in June. We will have a 'land only' date above on the 6th April.
- Any suggestions/feedback or items you'd like included in the next Newsletter, added to the website or advice needed please email me lynne@abibinit.org

I look forward to seeing you all in the near future; stay safe and be well, Lynne Ford 21/1/24