



Apr 2024 Newsletter

SPRING UPDATE*

** Following on from last season's theme, I'm writing this on the heels of Storm Kathleen which thankfully proved to be a hollow threat for Oxfordshire and our litter pick at the Rye Farm Meadow. Spring is still soggy with Met Office reporting that the UK experienced 27% more rainfall than an average March, with much of it concentrated in the south. No surprise there!*

The Look Ahead

We still have a number of dates in the calendar for this year; the next will be the joint 'Team Abingdon' group litter pick up on **Saturday 22nd June** based at Abingdon Lock and focussing on the River Thames and surrounding areas. We are so fortunate to have many community-minded groups and we are currently finalising the poster: to ensure that we have the widest representation possible. I'm hoping that the flyer for this will be published and shared by the 27th of April.

Plans are also in progress for a day of simultaneous litterpick events across Abingdon to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Friends of Abingdon on **Saturday 10th August**. This will hopefully again engage a number of community groups at a variety of locations. I will send out a further email to subscribers and publicise on the facebook and website when these plans are all in place.

Latest pick reports and events

So far Spring has been a busy, busy month with a small event organised by Bev Pagan for the 11th Abingdon Christ Church Brownies on **19th March**. The pack and their guardians met at Boxhill Park in place of their usual group activities to scour the area and in the short hour available gathered three large bags of rubbish together. It was definitely a fun and muddy event and one which I hope will be repeated in future. If you have an idea for an area that needs a clean up and want support in arranging an event, please contact me on the email shown overleaf.



The Town Centre pick on **23rd March** was another smashing success; over 30 volunteers turned out, the sun shone (occasionally!) and Town Crier Laurie spectacularly cried for us.



The video is on the Facebook page but I caution that there is never an incitement to throw litter bugs into the river – it was all in his imagination!

33 bags of rubbish, 10 of which were recyclable cans and bottles removed. **Hurrah!**



The Great British Spring Clean, run by the independent charity Keep Britain Tidy, took place between the 15th and 31st March. On behalf of AbiBinIt I pledged 25 bags towards the national total. The Brownie pick and the Town Centre event fell within that time frame and combined to a grand total of 36 bags meaning we smashed our pledge 🙌🙌🙌. [National total: 425,626 bags]

And finally, the 6th April pick targeted the Rye Farm Meadow end of the river and surrounding area. I have to confess that the news of Storm Kathleen was a concern however, despite the rising wind, the morning stayed dry - even if a little overcast.

The good news is that 20 volunteers recovered over 26 bags of rubbish from the environment: 11 of which comprised recyclable glass, tin and plastic bottles. There was a variety of items of interesting nature recovered - including a heavy (5 kg) drill bit and a camping kettle. I'm happy to report the drill bit is being cleaned up and will be put back into it's intended use: **another hurrah!**

My special thanks go to the four [Duke of Edinburgh Award](#) participants who are out and about currently – two undertaking their bronze award as reported in January and two new starters taking on the 6-month challenge of Silver. I've now prepared a one pager of information for those wanting to carry out litterpicking under the DoE scheme which is available on the Facebook page or drop me an email to make contact.

Keeping in touch: email, website and social media

Just a reminder that you can keep in touch via the events@abibinit.org email address. If you want to be added to the round robin email updates and the quarterly newsletters simply drop an email to that address with the subject of 'subscribe'.

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/>



The Friends of Abingdon support our group in a number of ways – not least 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/>



We now have over **600** members on the [Facebook group](#). 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. ❤️

Huge thanks to all who have turned out in support of these events; without you it wouldn't be half as much fun and certainly not as productive. To each and every person who give their time this applause is all yours 🙌🙌🙌

Stay safe and hope to see you soon... Don't forget **June 22nd** is the next group date!