



March 2025 Newsletter

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2025 Look ahead

Welcome all to the first 2025 newsletter. We have a schedule for the rest of this year which was shared by email to newsletter subscribers and local groups at the end of January. This is the set schedule and barring illness (or flooding!) will be the plan for this year. See the next page on keeping in touch: any late notice changes will be posted on the website and on the Facebook group. Of course if you have any suggestions or would like support in setting up bespoke litterpicks please get in touch by email (events@abibinit.org). With sufficient notice we may be able to align with the planned dates or provide you the information you need to book directly in good time.

Sat 22 nd March	10 am – 12 noon	MG Garden, Marcham Road
Sat 12 th April	10 am – 1 pm	Abingdon River Lock
Sun 25 th May	11 am – 2 pm	Town Centre
Sun 8 th June	10 am – 2 pm	Abingdon River Lock
Sun 17 th August	10 am – 12 noon	Southern Town Park
Sat 27 th September	11 am – 2 pm	Abingdon River Lock
Sat 25 th October	10 am – 12 noon	Reynolds Way Shops
TBC December	🎄 🎄 🎄	Town Centre *

*date to be agreed. Mince pies and hot chocolate may be on the cards 🍪

First Pick of the Year: Ock Walk 8th Feb

We started this year on a bright and sunny Saturday morning, with a sweep through and around the River Ock Walk, covering residential streets, the walk itself and the path down through Tithe Farm to Tesco's. This area has been flooded twice since last year and the resulting 32 bags, 14 of which were recycling, were recovered by 18 volunteers.



Whilst the majority of pickers were returning familiar faces, we were joined by two newbies from the far flung shores of Queensland, Australia. Over here for a family visit Sharon and Julie took the time out to lend a hand and, having let it slip that they were planning to come back in September this year, have pledged to return for our last river pick on 28th September. “We’ll meet again..” 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 ❤️ - we hope so!

Clubs and Societies Day: 1st March

This was the bi-annual Abingdon Clubs and Societies Day, held at the Guildhall in the town centre. It provided us, along with over 40 other groups and organisations in Abingdon, with the chance to have a stall and talk to ‘willing listeners’ about what we do and why, with the hope of enlisting new members. Also, it was a good opportunity to meet existing members and supporters within the Town Council.

C&S Day cont.



During the morning session I was grateful to be joined by David B, pictured talking with Councillor Tom Greenaway, to help extol the merits of AbiBinit! to visitors. We shared a table with our affiliates, The Friends of Abingdon, and the Choral Society and the Abingdon Scottish Dance groups. The room resonated with Highland music 😊 whilst we serenaded the visitors with tales of rubbish and recycling and how they could get involved. We had a fair amount of

interest, with several people registering to receive information: if you were one we met that day I do hope you are enjoying this newsletter and have found a date or two above that works for your diaries. We look forward to welcoming new members over the coming weeks and months.

The tenth Great British Spring Clean, run by the independent charity

Keep Britain Tidy, will be taking place between the 21st March and 6th April. On behalf of AbiBinit! I have again pledged 25 bags towards the national total: our next group pick falls in that window. There may also be an impromptu 'call to arms' to top it up which will be published on the Facebook group and by email. Last year we smashed that target by picking 36 bags. Let's try for that again! The National total 2024 for GBSC was recorded as 425,626 bags 🙌🙌🙌.



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' 😊. To get yourself removed: send 'unsubscribe' to the same address 😊

AbiBinit! are very proud to be affiliated with [The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society](#) and I encourage you all to visit their site and consider joining. 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. *Huge thanks again to Ray*



Hand for the website support! 🙌🙌🙌. The planned 2025 schedule above will be added to the website and as posters are published, with confirmed dates and times, they will also be available there to download and share ❤️ <https://abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk/activities/abibinit-litter-picking-initiative/>

We have over 650 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 continue to turn out in support of these events; without you it wouldn't be half as much fun and certainly not as productive. This applause is all for you 🙌🙌🙌

Stay safe and hope to see you soon... Don't forget **March 22nd 10am** is the next group date meeting at the MG Garden on Marcham Road/Drayton Road junction.