

Tadworth, Kingswood, Lower Kingswood, Walton & Burgh Heath Litter Picking Group - @CleanUpTadworth

- The litter picking group was set up by Kingswood resident Alison Godden in August 2020, as she had noticed a big rise in general litter during the first lockdown.
- Along with Alison, co-founders Lisa Davies and Juliet Quartermain, also from Kingswood, plus Tadworth resident Sharon Cranfield, set about establishing an excellent social media and communications network, plus the appointment of area leaders, ensuring maximum engagement with the community, attracting many volunteers, plus reporting and combating litter hot spots.
- 50 regular litter pickers currently keep the five Tadworth area villages as litter free as possible. The group has 400 Facebook group members and around 300 Instagram & Twitter followers.
- Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has greatly supported the group from the outset, providing supplies of kit and also large purple volunteer litter picking sacks in which the litter is rounded up. The council organises collection and disposal of the full bags.
- In addition to clearing tons of historical litter and keeping on top of new litter, the dynamic group of volunteers aims to create awareness of the terrible and increasing litter problem that blights the five Tadworth villages and across the UK as a whole. They are exceedingly active and effective in tackling litter hotspots with the help and support of the local councillors.
- The most common carelessly discarded items collected by the group are PPE, drinks cans, plastic bottles, crisps and sweet packets and takeaway lunch packaging, often thrown from moving vehicles or carelessly dropped in the streets, roadsides and public spaces. Dog excrement tied up in bags is an ever increasing problem and one of most unpleasant ones the group tackles. Car parts and roadside junk are also retrieved, plus fly tipping identified and reported
- Volunteers litter pick constantly and in all weathers to help keep on top of the never-ending litter problem.
- In less than 6 months, the group has collected a total of 1000 full purple sacks of litter.
- With the rapid expansion in volunteer numbers, litter picking kit supplies of pickers, hi-vis vests, gloves and bag hoops, exacerbated by the current COVID-19 situation, were getting in short supply. In early February, Surrey County Council & Tadworth & Walton Residents Association rewarded the group for their hard work with a very generous £1000 grant, specifically to provide much needed new litter picking kit.
- In addition to Surrey County Council's and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's great support, the group is also most grateful to its recent sponsors, namely Richard Saunders & Sons Estate Agents in Banstead, Epsom's Alexandra United Football Club and Tadworth Terracycle. All have also provided much needed hi-viz vests, litter pickers, bag hoops and gloves. These have been invaluable, keeping the volunteers COVID-19 safe throughout the pandemic and well equipped for the job in hand.
- The group's 2021 #LoveWhereYouLive Valentine's Day Litter Awareness campaign involved the group's collection of 1000 empty drinks cans from the five villages in two weeks. They were utilised to create a giant litter art heart shape in the centre of the main Tadworth roundabout that links all 5 Surrey villages. The campaign is supported by local celebrity and music artist, Michael Armstrong by way of a new self-penned single release entitled 'Matters of Heart'. The cans have now been donated to Banstead's The Beacon School Friends Association Charity in association with Tadworth Terracycle, to kick-start their new Litter Awareness and Recycling initiative, involving every year group once they return to school. The litter group will continue to donate collected drinks cans to this great project.
- The group reaches out to and supports other local communities in the fight against litter.
- Volunteers are encouraged to involve their families in their own litter picking activities and the group is very proud of it's growing band of mini-litter pickers, some as young as 4 years old, plus senior school Duke of Edinburgh students who litter pick in association with the group for their award assignments.

Current and On Going Projects:

- ❖ Reporting of fly tipping
- ❖ Reporting and clearing around overflowing bins (due to people not taking their litter and bagged dog excrement home with them to dispose of).
- ❖ Tadworth Network Rail Embankment – The group has requested The clearance of the litter strewn all along the embankment perimeter and visible along the main village street and Jubilee Wood, which are conservation areas.
- ❖ Preston Estate: Clearance of neglected woodland and general clear up of the area.

Surrey County Council's Councillor Jeff Harris says;

This fantastic effort by our willing volunteers shouldn't actually be necessary. If everyone was as passionate about our area as they are, everyone else would TAKE IT HOME! Please don't be an Anti-social chucker"

Reigate and Banstead Councillor, Rachel Turner says *"Within 5 months these amazing Litter Pickers have collected 1,000 full bags of litter, plus an enormous amount of large rubbish items and fly tipping and have also got various communities working together. Volunteers include children who are really committed to keeping our beautiful heath, woodlands and other areas litter free."*

Social Media:

Facebook: Tadworth Kingswood Walton And Burgh Heath Litter Pickers - @ CleanUpTadworth
Instagram @cleanuptadworth

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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February, 2021