



# Love Solihull

for cleaner, greener, safer lives

*This month we let you know how you can pledge your support for the Great British Spring Clean, we get updates on tree planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and learn about various community-led projects which are making a huge difference to the borough*



## Get ready for the Great British Spring Clean

We are looking forward to once again supporting the Great British Spring Clean, a two-week nationwide campaign from the charity [Keep Britain Tidy](#) which aims to tackle litter around the country and encourage more people to take pride in where they live.

The seventh annual #GBSpringClean and #GBSchoolClean takes place between **25 March to 10 April 2022** and you can now submit your [pledge to pick](#) for this year's #BigBagCount

A survey by Keep Britain Tidy of those who took part in last year's Great British Spring Clean found more than half (52%) agreed it helped them meet new people and make friends, and a staggering 91% agreed they felt more pride in their local area after participating. Almost everyone surveyed (98%) agreed the campaign reduced the impact of litter on wildlife and the natural environment.

The charity also reports a significant increase in the number of people litter picking in the great outdoors to help their mental wellbeing, following the additional pressures triggered by the pandemic.

Keep Britain Tidy's Chief Executive, Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, said:

*"In the past two years our outdoor spaces and places have mattered to us more than ever before as more people have embraced them during the pandemic – and with this we know local authorities like Solihull have had an extra battle on their hands to keep them clean and green.*

*"During this year's Great British Spring Clean, we are calling on everyone in Solihull to harness the power of collective environmental action by taking on the #BigBagChallenge. Whether it's pledging to pick just one bag, or more, we can all carry out small acts of kindness for our planet and for ourselves."*

Pledge to get involved today at [www.keepbritaintidy.org/gbspringclean](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/gbspringclean) and don't forget to tag us on Twitter and Instagram @LoveSolihull #GBSpringClean #BigBagChallenge

Love Solihull is able to loan equipment and provide bags for group litter picks, so please email [lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk) to make a request. Equipment is available on a first come, first served basis, and we recommend getting in touch **as soon as possible** with the date, time and location of your event.

You can also get involved as an individual by registering to be a [Love Solihull Community Litter Picking Volunteer](#). Once registered, you can collect free litter picking equipment from your local library which enables you to go litter picking all year round, as and when suits you.

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## Community comes together to help restore Queens Garden in Chelmsley Wood



**Picture caption: Volunteers gather at the Queens Garden**

A fantastic community action day was recently held at Queens Garden picnic spot, opposite ASDA in Chelmsley Wood and alongside Kingshurst Brook, with the aim of restoring this green space area.

Litter was removed from the site by the army of volunteers and local organisations, as well as trolleys from the water and various fly-tipped items. Snowdrops and crocuses, donated by [B37 Project](#), were planted to add some colour, and the pathways were cleared of moss and debris to create better access to the various benches.

The event, organised by [Clean & Green](#) was supported by Love Solihull, B37 Project, Tribal Community Rangers, Solihull Community Housing (SCH), Marston Green Lions, West Midlands Police and Colebridge Trust. Local residents turned up to show their support, including Councillor Shesh Sheshabhatter (Chelmsley Wood ward).

Practical support for tasks was provided by the council's Park Ranger team, who helped cut back overgrown vegetation, and staff from Amey helped to take away the litter collected by the volunteers. Additional support was also provided by SCH Better Places to remove some of the graffiti in the area.

This project was a fantastic example of what can be achieved by a community coming together with a shared vision to improve an area that everyone can enjoy.

Further restoration work will be carried out later this year and a plaque to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be erected as a reminder of the Queen's visit to open the nearby Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre on 7 April 1971.

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## Volunteers from local angling club support work at Babbs Mill Lake



A productive day was had recently at Babbs Mill Lake, as Love Solihull were joined by volunteers from Babbs Mill Angling Club and Andy Hunter from the Council's Community Development Team.

The group worked to reduce the overgrown vegetation around some of the existing fishing pegs at the lake, removed over ten bags of litter and retrieved various fly-tipped items from the shallow

water.

**Picture caption: Reed management at the lake carried out by the Rangers and volunteers**

Careful conservation work was carried out to remove some of the reeds around one of the fishing pegs, as this rapid growing plant provides excellent natural habitat for fry and nesting birds.

Overgrown bramble was also cut back near a memorial bench on the east side of the lake, restoring a lovely view of the water for all to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone involved in this ongoing project.





Picture caption: A restored view from the memorial bench at Babbs Mill lake

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## Streetsbrook Infant School tackles litter at Jacey Park



A big thank you to Streetsbrook Infant & Early Years Academy who recently invited Love Solihull into the school to carry out an environmental workshop with Year 2 children focusing on litter and recycling. This complemented their current in-school project of 'making a difference' to the environment.

The pupils were very engaged with the topics discussed and were able to confidently talk about how litter causes harm to wildlife and what kind of materials can be recycled at home.

Both classes took part in a litter pick, with over 60 children collecting ten bags of rubbish in total from the local area and Jacey Park.

We even bumped into one of the community volunteers from [Friends of Jacey Park](#) who was thrilled to see the school children getting involved with litter picking the area she cares for.

Well done to our #litterheroes - remember that no-one is too small to make a big difference!

**Picture caption: Streetsbrook Infant School litter picking in Jacey Park**

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## Smith's Wood Academy eco-club join forces with Love Solihull



The newly established eco-club at Smith's Wood Academy recently joined Love Solihull for a litter pick around their local green space, Smith's Wood.

A group of ten students took part in the litter pick after school, and managed to collect over ten bags of litter in under an hour, as well as reporting broken bins and fly-tipping.

As well as feeling great about their contribution to the local community, the pupils were rewarded for their efforts by their teacher, Miss Weightman, with 'carrot' stickers, which count towards in-school incentives.

Thank you to the eco-club for representing their school so well and continuing to carry out positive eco-actions in school.

**Picture caption: A damaged bin reported by the eco-club at Smith's Wood Academy**

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## New signage highlights the important role volunteers play



You may have noticed some new signage, including banners and posters, popping up in local parks and green spaces where there are active litter picking groups based.

We hope this new campaign material, supported by Keep Britain Tidy, continues to shine a light on the amazing support received from volunteers in Solihull when it comes to tackling litter.

Carrying the message 'this area was cleaned by local volunteers', we hope the signs may encourage people to think twice about their littering behaviour, making use of the public bins or taking their rubbish home.

**Picture caption: A new banner erected at Shirley Park**

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## **Berkswell supports the Great British Spring Clean**





# Planting Our Future

Solihull

## Planting trees for the Queen's Jubilee

The Queen's Deputy Lieutenant Professor Sir Nigel Thrift, joined the Leader of Solihull Council, Cllr Ian Courts, alongside students and staff from Langley School, local ward councillors and council staff to plant 54 trees at Langley Hall Park for The Queen's Green Canopy – one for each country in The Queen's Commonwealth.

[The Queen's Green Canopy](#) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee this year.



Cllr Ian Courts, Leader of Solihull Council, said: *“The Queen’s Green Canopy invites people to ‘Plant a Tree for the Jubilee’ to honour The Queen’s 70 years of leadership of the Nation and to enhance our environment.*

*“Here in Solihull we understand the importance of trees. As part of our urban landscape they add beauty and support and sustain wildlife, creating habitats for lots of different birds and animals.*

*“Trees also play a hugely significant role in combating climate change, absorbing as much as 22kg of carbon each, producing oxygen and purifying the air.*

*“We have pledged to plant 250,000 trees over the next ten years so we jumped at the chance to get involved in The Queen’s Green Canopy, creating a lasting legacy which will benefit future generations.”*

Students from Langley School’s [Eco Group](#) in Olton worked with local ward councillors and the council’s Planting our Future team to plant the trees for The Queen’s Green Canopy. The scheme was sponsored by John Lewis.



**Picture caption – Front row, students from Langley School. Back row – Olton ward councillor Cllr Robert Grinsell, Leader of Solihull Council Cllr Ian Courts, The Queen’s Deputy Lieutenant Professor Sir Nigel Thrift, Head Teacher Clare Thorpe, Olton ward councillor Cllr Daniel Gibbin, Eco leader Joanna Botley**

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**Love Solihull actively encourages residents and businesses to make a difference to the environment and support those who co-ordinate their own projects.**

Email alerts will be sent out throughout the year giving information on environmental projects including what is happening in your area and how you can get involved.

More information can be found at [www.lovesolihull.org](http://www.lovesolihull.org)

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**GOVDELIVERY**