



Love Solihull - April 2022



This month we showcase the achievements of this year's Great British Spring Clean and remind readers of the best way to report environmental issues to the council

Great British Spring Clean makes a big impact



This year, the Great British Spring Clean returned for its seventh year inviting the public to take part in the **#BigBagChallenge**, pledging to pick up just one bag during the two-weeks to help make a big difference.

Nationwide there were **over 400,000** bags of litter pledged, which benefits not only the environment, but protects humans and wildlife from the harmful effects of littering.

In Solihull, several community groups, businesses, schools, colleges and youth organisations took part in the campaign, supported with equipment by Love Solihull.

Over **30** organised litter picks took place around the borough with more than **400 volunteers** participating, averaging **1 bag of litter per person**. This is in addition to numerous bags collected by individual volunteers who headed out along their usual routes during the campaign.

To everyone that took part, shared their stories, joined a litter picking group or registered with Love Solihull during the Spring Clean, we want to say a massive **thank you** - your support and engagement helps make a huge difference to where we live and shows that litter is not welcome in Solihull.

If you were inspired by the Great British Spring Clean and want to find out more about litter picking, visit our [website](#) to register as a volunteer, where you will be invited to collect **free** equipment from your local library to help get you started!

You can take a look back at the Spring Clean highlights via our Instagram @lovesolihull or check out the hashtag #GBSpringClean on Twitter.

Fly-tippers successfully convicted in Solihull

Solihull Council has successfully prosecuted two offenders for fly-tipping offences in Elvers Green Lane, Barston, Solihull. The two offenders worked together to deposit a number of black refuse sacks containing waste cannabis leaf in the area on Tuesday 7 January 2020 and Wednesday 22 January 2020.

Mark Biddle, 48, of Foxwell Close, Birmingham and Jason Edwards, 42, of Woodclose Rd, Birmingham were found guilty of these offences on Friday 8 April 2022 at Birmingham Magistrates Court. Both defendants were fined £500 and each was ordered to pay a £75 victim surcharge and £1,448 costs – **a total fine of £2,023 each.**

[Read the full article](#)

Young people take action to rid the rubbish



A special thank you to all the schools and colleges who participated in this year's Great British School Clean, part of the national Great British Spring Clean. Those who took part included: Windy Arbor Primary School, Monkspath Junior and Infant School, Balsall Common Primary School, Coppice Junior School, John Henry Newman Catholic College, Langley School, Solihull College & University Centre, Greswold Primary School and Smith's Wood Academy.

With support from Love Solihull, over 170 pupils took part in cleaning up their school grounds, local streets and parks, collecting more than 50 bags of litter.

Thank you for making a huge difference and helping to keep Solihull clean and tidy!



Photo caption: Clockwise from top left, students at Solihull College, Balsall Common Primary eco-club, Purple & Yellow Butterflies (Reception) at Windy Arbor, Year 3 children

at Monkspath Primary, Langley School eco-club at Langley Hall Park, Smith's Wood Academy's Year 7 eco-club head to Smith's Wood.

Rotary Club tackles litter at Tudor Grange Park



Members of both [Solihull](#) and [St Alphege Rotary](#) Club turned up to support the Great British Spring Clean this month, carrying out their annual litter pick of Tudor Grange Park.

Rotary Club volunteers are dedicated to supporting the local community and help worthy causes, as well as getting together with like-minded friends and having fun.

The group of 14 volunteers helped to collect over 15 bags of litter in just under two hours, as well as reporting fly-tipped items to the council for removal.

Volunteers followed up their participation in the event with an informal lunch at The Fieldhouse to reward their efforts. Thank you to everyone involved from Solihull and St Alphege Rotary Clubs for looking after this beautiful park!

Spring clean and annual planting in Knowle



[Knowle Society](#) recently organised their annual tidy up of St John's Way Shopping Precinct to coincide with this year's Great British Spring Clean.

The event, supported by Love Solihull, Visit Knowle and Knowle & Dorrige Lions, saw more than 10 volunteers take part in sprucing up the raised flower beds, removing weeds and planting colourful pansies, alongside litter picking the precinct, Knowle Park and nearby streets.

This community collaboration is always greatly appreciated by local residents who pass through the shopping area and thank the volunteers for their dedicated work.

Photo caption: Volunteers meet at St John's Way ready for action

REPIC selects Meriden Park for annual litter pick

[REPIC](#), the largest household waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) producer compliance scheme in the UK, recently travelled down to Solihull from their head office in Bury to litter pick around Meriden Park, as part of the Great British Spring Clean.

The team of volunteers, supported by Love Solihull, collected just under 40 bags of litter from the park, making a huge difference to the area in time for the arrival of Spring.

[Read the full article here](#)



Photo caption: Staff from REPIC and The Appliance Recycling Group at Meriden Park

Reporting environmental issues to the council

Did you know that the quickest and easiest way to report an issue to the council is [online](#)? Using the simple online form, you can let us know about environmental issues impacting where you live, including litter, overflowing bins, fly-tipping, graffiti or abandoned trollies.

When reporting an issue, provide as much detailed information as possible and the precise location. Where you are able, include clear photographs that have a point of reference in the frame e.g. a nearby building or landmark. If you have a mobile device, you can take a

screenshot of Google Maps with a dropped pin which shows the exact location of the issue - this screenshot can then be uploaded to the reporting form to help the team easily locate the issue.

Once you have submitted your online enquiry, you will be allocated a customer reference number, which can be used if you need to contact the council again.

If you are unable to access the web form, you can call Solihull Connect on **0121 704 8000**, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm or try the [Live Chat](#) function, Monday to Friday, 10am - 4.30pm (excluding bank holidays).

You are welcome to e-mail lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk (quoting your customer reference number) if any previously reported environmental issues remains unresolved, our team will check any progress and provide you with an update (if available).

Pre-Schoolers take part in litter pick for Earth Day

On Friday 22 April, Earth Day was recognised by [Day Care at St Martin's](#) with a litter pick in Malvern Park for the centre's pre-schoolers.

The early years provider, which is rated 'oustanding' by Ofsted, is exploring new ways to help the children (aged 0-5 years) engage with their local environment and be more sustainable as a centre.

Staff regularly take the children to the local park for activities, due to the centre's close proximity to Malvern Park, and Earth Day provided an ideal opportunity to teach the children about the dangers of litter and how it impacts the local wildlife.

The children all did a fantastic job of finding plenty of rubbish, with the supervision of the centre staff, and they plan to get involved with more initiatives supported by Love Solihull in future!

Well done to all the small #LitterHeroes out there - keep up the good work!



Photo caption: Staff and children from Day Care at St Martin's, St Alphege

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

keep doing the
right thing
for Solihull



Hands



Face



Space



Fresh air



Get a test



Get a jab

Solihull Fairtrade trail comes to town centre

For more information about Council services, please see our [website](#).

