

TIDY UP OUR TOWN WEEK 2010

“What an overwhelming success!” said Cllr Mrs J Barton, Chairman of Barnstaple Town Council’s Environment Committee. “It was raining at the beginning of week but by the end of the week the sun was shining, communities came out in force – over **400 people** took part - the schools played their part too and at least **100 school children** were out there litter picking and enjoying every moment of it!”

“I cannot praise those who took part too highly. This was the whole community working together for the common good – and how they worked. **11 (ELEVEN) skip loads of rubbish** and **over 150 (163) bags of rubbish** and recycling removed from our streets and communities. I’m so proud to be a part of this and Barnstaple should be so proud of its townsfolk, young and old, for making such a huge difference”

Local organisations, businesses, agencies and community groups were encouraged to hold a tidy up project in areas of the town. The weeklong event was launched by Ewan Doswell Devon County Council Waste Management on Monday 7th June at the Guildhall in Butchers Row Barnstaple. The launch was well attended by all ages.

The first event on Tuesday morning was on the Higher Raleigh Allotment site; tenants on the site came out in force and managed to fill a skip within the hour. Items cleared included bath tubs, sheets of metal, wood and tyres. In the afternoon the Tarka Hub held a litter pick along the Tarka trial from the Barnstaple Rugby Club to the Civic Centre and beyond. They had a very successful afternoon and collected 5 large bags of litter. Amongst the rubbish they found a pair of false teeth.



On Wednesday the Mayor went out early with volunteers from the Barnstaple Baptist Church. They litter picked along Rolle Quay and Mermaid Cross. The volunteers managed to collect 15 bags of rubbish between them, and reported hypodermic needles found near Gracie's old sand shop which were removed and disposed of by the Environment Health team. The MacDonald's team took part for the third year running, they dived into hedges and coverts along Old Station Road to Coney Gut and managed fill a skip load of rubbish by the afternoon. Old Sticklepath Hill also got blitzed in the afternoon by volunteers from St Paul's Church.



A great effort was made by schools in the town. On Thursday Park Community School held a litter pick during their lunch break in and around the School grounds. Sticklepath School tackled Anchor Wood but took a different approach which they called 'flagging up'. The students made some flags out of biodegradable materials and used them to flag up dog faeces to raise awareness of the problem. Lampard School worked with local PCSO's on the Wednesday and litter picked along the cycle track to Tesco's. Pilton Community College did their bit on the Friday litter picking in the Rotary Gardens, Pilton Park, Old Sheepskin Factory and along the River Yeo.

The projects were a great success with all the children excelling themselves in their enthusiasm to clear up every scrap they could find – and that was quite a lot – 69 bin bags and recycling bags were collected by the schools during the week.

On Friday Roundswell Church litter picked the lanes around Sainsbury's Supermarket. They collected 15 bags of rubbish and two large television sets which the Barnstaple Probation Team helped to dispose of. The Probation Team also filled a skip of rubbish from the Bryant's Field allotment site and Bear Street.



Saturday 12th June was a popular day with 7 projects taking place. The first project kicked off at 9.30am with the Fairview Allotment tenants cleaning in around the allotment site at Pathfield Lawn. Ashleigh Residents Association were highly motivated with residents giving up their Saturday to make the town a better place. Sanctuary Shaftesbury Housing held a tidy up in Hughes Avenue for the second year running, residents helped to clean the area filling a skip by lunchtime. The Holy Trinity Church organised a litter pick along Coney Gut and managed to collect several bags of rubbish and larger items included a broken bicycle and a Tesco's shopping trolley. The Children's Summer Club ended the day by holding a litter pick in and around Verona Court, they managed to collect 3 large bags of rubbish and 1 bag of recycling.

The Green Watch team of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service supported Tidy up our Town and tried to attend most of the events that took place on the Saturday to lend a helping hand. St Johns Ambulance also had a great impact on the 6 day-long event. They went out every evening from Monday – Friday litter picking along the by-pass, Derby Road and other areas in the town collecting over 50 bags of rubbish during the week, and a double mattress which had been dumped. Other groups that took part during Tidy up our Town week included the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Barnstaple Allotment Association, Bowering Court Residents, Forches Youth Club, Whiddon Valley Evangelical Church and Mr and Mrs Wiseman the Town Council's voluntary public footpath inspectors.

During the week 163 bags of rubbish were collected and 11 skips filled. The Chairman Cllr Mrs Jo Barton said "I am very proud to be associated with this event it has been a tremendous success and I am hoping that in the future we can build on the relationships that have been formed with local businesses, agencies and neighbourhoods to make Tidy up our Town a regular event in our towns' calendar. I would like to thank all those who took part and made this event such a success".

The event was supported by agencies and businesses in the town including Frankmarsh Stores, McDonalds, Barnstaple Youth Council, St. John's Garden Centre, North Devon Journal and North Devon Council.