



Case Studies: Community Involvement

The following case studies are from groups of all ages that participated in National Spring Clean 2009.

1. The **Amisfield Gardening Club** and **Primary school**, along with parents and other helpers, split into small groups, so they could spread out around Amisfield to collect litter. They completed a risk assessment before they went, and wore reflective jackets or tabards to keep them safe. They also wore gloves to protect their hands and used litter pickers so they didn't have to touch the litter. They collected loads of rubbish, including cigarette ends and packets, empty drink cans, crisp packets, an old tennis racket, old plant pots, plastic bottles, an old pair of glasses, a broken CD and many other things. It took groups various lengths of time from about half an hour until an hour and a half! They all enjoyed themselves, and were quite tired at the end.

2. Six members of the **Kirkintilloch Mountaineering Club**, with ages ranging between 59 and 84, participated in a clean up of Campsie Glen, the west end of the Campsie Fells and the area surrounding the car park and kerbs of the Lennoxton to Fintry road. They had noticed that it was badly in need of attention and between them collected over 80 bottles, 150 aluminium cans, 200 pieces of plastic and steel cans (which were all sorted and recycled); and eight large bin bags of rubbish, plus two tents and parts of barbeque cookers, which were deposited at Glasgow waste disposal facilities.

3. The Clean Up on the Old Road by **Kyleakin Environmental Group** was very successful, with several old tyres, five broken televisions, four storage heaters, an old hi-fi unit, numerous food cans and plastic bottles, discarded clothing, road and business signs, a wrecked bicycle and several old traffic cones being loaded into the skip. There was also a not inconsiderable amount of dumped builders waste. The Highland Council Waste Team provided a skip free of charge as well as personnel to help on the day.

4. **Wigtown in Bloom** organised a clean up of the town. Each member of the group went and litter-picked their own areas of the community and made Wigtown a much tidier place to live. This is a continuing initiative and each volunteer now has their own area of the community to maintain and keep litter-free.

5. On Saturday 4 April 2009, 42 adults and 9 children from **Busby Parish Church** took part in a litter pick up around the village of Busby. They managed to fill around 50 black bags with bottles, cans, crisp bags and other litter. Despite some heavy rain at times everyone enjoyed the morning and they plan to repeat the clean up next year, and make it an annual event.

6. Nine members of the **Bridge 19-40 Canal Society** spent Easter Saturday picking up litter from the canal and towpath in Broxburn. Some of them were on a little boat, Roseann, while others walked along the towpath collecting litter. **British Waterways** met them at various points to remove the bags of rubbish from the boat. Everyone worked very hard to make the canal look better for local people and for those who pass by on holiday hire boats.

7. **Two neighbours** got together to clear the River Carron path near where they live of litter and branches, transforming what had been used as a dumping ground to a far more attractive area for everyone to enjoy. It is hoped that a bin will now be installed and that people will start using it!

8. The **Lochgair Association** rallied 42 adults and 12 children to take part in a beach clean between Minard Point and West Otter Ferry, a total length of more than 9 miles! They filled more than 60 rubbish bags. Other rubbish included four vehicle wheels, seven tyres, one large plastic container, 12 small buoys, one fishcage walkway, 12 plastic drums (one half-filled with used oil), a vacuum cleaner, two footballs, and several hundred metres of rope from fine string to 25mm diameter rope.

9. A group of 13 from **Newmachar Parish Church** in Aberdeenshire targeted certain areas of their village where litter builds up as a result of people gathering there. Litter had been thrown under bushes and some of it was difficult to reach. There were a lot of torn bits of plastic and dog poo that had been tied up in plastic bags then thrown into the undergrowth. One stone dyke even had plastic bags of poo pushed into gaps in the wall. Among the rubbish was a fire extinguisher, wooden signs and a very large knife, which could have been dangerous in the wrong hands.

10. **Granthouse Community Trust** appealed for volunteers to Spring Clean Grantshouse and Houndwood. At 11am on a bright and sunny Sunday morning four adults and three children met at the Grantshouse Inn and prepared to tackle the job. Equipped with bright yellow tabards, litter pickers, rubber gloves and rubbish bags they started at the northern end of the village in the village and worked their way through the main street and along the verge beside the A1.

The village looked fairly clean until they started work and then it was amazing how many pieces of rubbish they found littered at the roadside and lying among the grass along the verges. In no time at all they had filled several bags with general waste, tin cans and plastic bottles and were glad to take a break and return to the pub for a rest and refreshments. They even persuaded two of the pub's other customers to join them for the afternoon session and gathered additional volunteers as they progressed later that day!

11. **Whitburn Community Clean Up** was well supported by both local residents and businesses, with volunteers ranging from three to 73 years old! Just short of 50 bags were collected, including three full of glass bottles and four full of plastic bottles. Of the more usual items of litter there were two trolleys, a bike, a circular saw, half a car engine, a kitchen table and two broken chairs."

12. A team of **four individuals** cleaned up a patch of woodland beside the Balone turnoff and Lumbo Den. This little patch has a resident pair of buzzards and some fine mature trees, with a little burn running through it. However, like many such patches beside a fairly busy road with a track alongside it, has also been used as a parking and dumping ground. They found big plastic drums, decaying polythene builders' sheeting, parts of an old washing machine and a motor bike engine as well as tins, cans, plastic bottles and sandwich wrappers - many very ancient.

13. Milngavie in Bloom coordinated a clean up of part of Lennox Park involving 12 adults and seven children who worked together to tackle slopes which the local council does not regularly clean. Most of the passers by were appreciative of their efforts and the park was looking beautiful by the time they left, with some little rabbits playing, and a heron flying upstream.”

14. A total of 16 volunteers attended 'The Reston clean-up' organised by **Reston Auchencrow Community Council**. Primarily the rubbish found was very old, in a state of de-composition and unfit for recycling. The area where most rubbish was found was in and around the road junction with the A1 trunk road, indicating that the majority of litter droppers are not residents of Reston but passers-by. The streets of Reston itself were found to be very clean and litter free. Volunteers found it encouraging that their fellow residents respect their Village.

15. Eyemouth Town Council advertised its litter pick in The Berwickshire News, by word of mouth and by emailing various bodies, eg scouts and primary school. On the day they meet in the car park and divided into groups. A mum with her two lads and dog came up from walking on the beach and got roped in too! The sun shone and they enjoyed the day, helped by two town councillors, a local councillor, and members of the public.

16. Tired of the constant littering, dog fouling, vandalism and graffiti in their local area, **Dalry Colonies Resident's Association** (DCRA) held the biggest ever clean up of their neighbourhood on Sunday the 26th of April 2009. The area they focussed on is an urban environment in inner city Edinburgh. A total of 43 adults, three children and two babies participated in the event on a dry, bright spring day. An MSP for Edinburgh and a local Councillor showed their support by attending.

After several hours of litter picking, street sweeping, weeding, hedge trimming and removing graffiti, an impressive 25 bags of rubbish awaited collection by the City of Edinburgh Council. Among the more unusual items found in the nooks and crannies were old metal street signs, a set of bamboo screens, traffic cones, an assortment of scrap metal and drug related litter. The enthusiastic volunteers transformed Dalry Colonies into a cleaner, greener place to live.

At the event conclusion, neighbours gathered to admire all their hard work and enjoy afternoon tea refreshments donated by a local business or baked by residents. This added to the sense of occasion on the day. DCRA views their actions as the beginning of a long term commitment to revitalising their neighbourhood. Encouraged by the success of their Spring Clean, DCRA went on to enter the **Beautiful Scotland Neighbourhood Awards**.

17. Ardchattan Primary School and **Friends of Ardchattan** united to pick up litter along the shore of Loch Etive and along the road for 3.5 km. Most of the litter that was picked up was items left by fishermen and items that have come ashore during the storms that they had before the clean up. They had a great day, which was dry, and they had 15 adults and nine children helping.

If you are actively involved in improving and enhancing your neighbourhood, why not take things a step further and work towards a **Neighbourhood Award** [<http://www.beautifulscotland.org/neighbourhood.asp>] or enter the **Beautiful Scotland** [<http://www.beautifulscotland.org/>] competition?

Keep Scotland Tidy is a programme of Keep Scotland Beautiful. Keep Scotland Beautiful is an operating name of Environmental Campaigns (Scotland). Scottish Charity Number SC030332.