

Barnes Tidy Towpath Group

Passionate about the Environment

13 March 2018

Barnes Tidy Towpath Group

We are locals who are passionate about our environment, our towpath and our river...



Barnes Tidy Towpath Group

. . . but we are disgusted by the abuses we see daily!



So we are taking action to protect our environment now and for the future



How we got started

- Before Petra and I met, we each noticed someone had placed a **rubbish bag** at a litter hotspot near Hammersmith Bridge, hoping to address the litter problem.
- We each decided to do our bit to help - by litter picking
- Eventually, we met, began working together and engaging with passers-by, many of whom asked if they could join us



Our Map

PLEASE help keep
the towpath & river clear of rubbish



Dispose responsibly
in the marked bins along the towpath map

Join us: **The Barnes Tidy Towpath group**
We regularly litter pick along the towpath & shore
Please google us or contact us at:
barnestidytowpathgroup@gmail.com



Getting Provisions

- Upon request, the Council generously provided bags, sticks and gloves AND agreed to collect our non-recyclable debris from pre-arranged street locations
- The BCA, Round the Clock Pharmacy and Sainsbury's donated supplies, whilst other shops displayed our leaflet
- SWLEN kindly supported us to create our website and email



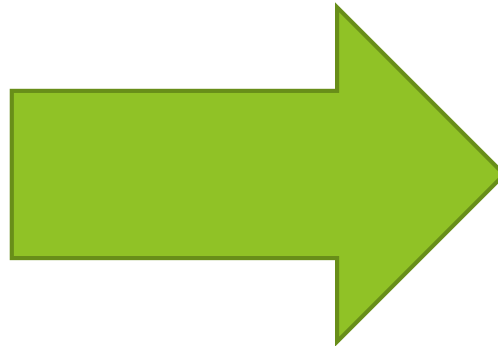
Cracking on as a Group!

- Working in a group was more fun and made it easier to engage with passers-by to create a real impact
- Initial focus: a one-mile stretch of the Barnes Towpath, typically collecting 3 bags of litter & recyclables per week
- Our bike and trailer - the BTTG Carriage - help us transport bags to collection points



Clean ups

- Hammersmith Bridge Bench: 6 bags weekly
- Towpath (Barnes Bridge to the Wetlands): 3-8 bags weekly
- Foreshore: easily 12 bags



Where does it all come from?

- Sadly, there is **WILFUL LITTERING**:



- Dog Poo Bags
- Cans, Bottles and Cups (Plastic and Glass)
- Food containers and wrappers
- Plastic Bags

We have spared
you the Poo Bags!



Where does it all come from?

- But much is swept up by **the tide**



- **Plastics- big and small- and packaging**

- Food Wrappers
- Bottles & tops
- Takeaway food containers
- Grocery bags
- Polystyrene
- Building materials

- **After a Thames Water Sewerage Release**

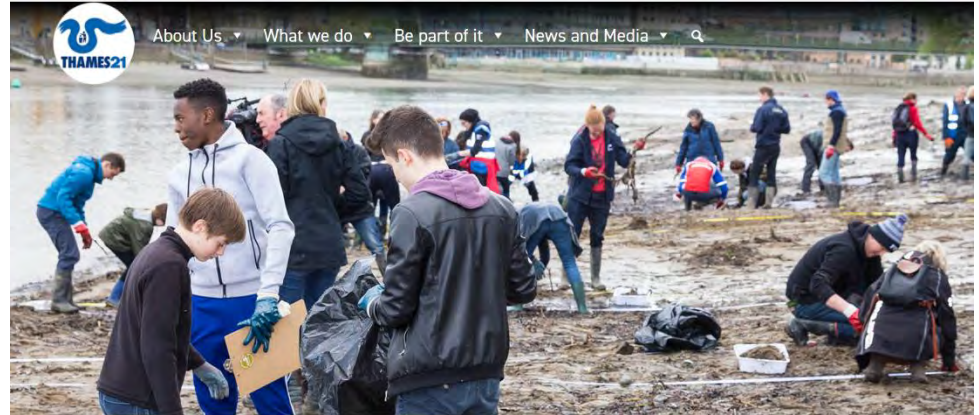
- Cotton bud sticks
- Toiletries
- Small plastic bits
- Sanitary products
- Wet wipes
- Condoms
- Needles/syringes



How Much Debris is There?

Hammersmith “Wet Wipe Beach”

67 wet wipes/sanitary products were counted **per square metre** during a recent Thames21 survey near Hammersmith Bridge



Barnes Bridge Micro Plastics

In 3 hours near Barnes Bridge, we gathered 12 bags of rubbish, largely micro plastics, and 2 bags of recyclables

Summary of Achievements to Date

- Our efforts are paying off:
 - ✓ Wednesday and occasional weekend group sessions
 - ✓ Provide equipment to others who go out on their own
 - ✓ Originally 4/5 people; now 14/15 each session; 25 on email
 - ✓ Litter picking: 30+man hours/week, filling 20 large bags
 - ✓ Focus area has grown – now cover a 3 mile stretch
 - ✓ 2 new Council bins and BTTG's work = considerable reduction of **wilful** littering and prompt removal of tidal litter
 - ✓ Increased awareness by engaging with passers-by, other community groups, schools and via our website
- We could not have done this alone and we thank:
 - LBRUT who provide equipment and new bins and SWLEN who provided technical support
 - The BCA and local shops who donate supplies
 - Thames21 for training and opportunity to do statistical surveys

What next?

- **Continue to raise awareness** on how to help tackle the litter problem, especially single use plastics, non-recyclable takeaway cups, dog poo & bags
- **Support environmental initiatives** such as the Plastics Free Barnes & Mortlake and the Plastics Free Pubs schemes to create a multi-group awareness campaign
- **Great British Spring Clean** campaign participation
- Help establish similar towpath groups
- **Boat Race**: ensure spectator litter is quickly removed
- March-April **Thames21 Training Sessions**
- Signs and bins for the Hammersmith Bridge to Putney stretch
- Dog Poo survey to reduce this problem on the towpath



Our Aims

- **Two-pronged approach:**
 - 1) Clean area = less wilful littering
Relentless tidal litter = bigger problem
 - 2) Focus on engagement, education & prevention for real impact!
- Emphasise the **link** between pollution in the Thames and ocean and the fish we eat
- **Support environmental initiatives**, e.g.,
Plastics Free Barnes & Mortlake and the Plastics Free Pubs schemes to **create a multi-group awareness campaign**
- **Support Cllr Fleming's initiative** for LBRUT to be the gold standard in the fight against plastics
- Help Barnes become a model, **plastics-free village**
- Maintain **contact with key groups**: the PLA, Tideway (“super sewer”), Thames21 and Boat Race organisers to promote an environmental focus on future large-scale riverine events



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Work with us!