

PICKING UP



by Marian, Keep Caversham Tidy

View Island litter

photo Keep Caversham Tidy

THE PIECES



Kings Meadow litter

photo Keep Caversham Tidy

OUR AREA has some beautiful public spaces which we can all enjoy. But, like most towns, it needs help to keep them clean and green.

Keep Caversham Tidy is a local charity committed to doing just that. On Saturday mornings the team don high visibility vests and protective gloves before setting out with litter pickers and bin bags to clear litter and fly-tipped waste. On 16 March, twenty-nine volunteers, including members of Caversham Globe and Duke of Edinburgh Award participants, joined in with the Great British Spring Clean. They collected more than 120 bags of litter from roads, parks, and along the Thames.

Chairperson Kim Hurd said, "It's inspiring to see all these people who strive to make a difference. In March alone we completed over 100 hours of litter picking. It's very satisfying at the end of a pick to see the pile of rubbish we've removed.

"Much of the litter is food and drink packaging, but

we've also worked with local residents to remove fly tipped waste and abandoned encampments - tents, sleeping bags - from View Island which had been there for months. The litter is quite varied, it included toys, vapes, car parts, and a surprising number of pregnancy tests!"

Litter is not only unsightly, it attracts vermin and can harm birds, including our swans and geese. Broken glass is a hazard. Even small items, such as sweet wrappers and cigarette butts, take years to break down and leave microplastics and

toxins behind. Litter and fly tipping also blocks drains and waterways, increasing flood risk.

The good news is that you can help by:

- Looking after your road or local park, with support from Reading's Adopt Your Street (RAYS) scheme
- Reporting waste to the Council by phone or on the LoveCleanStreets app
- Joining a Keep Caversham Tidy litter pick on a Saturday morning

To find out where Keep Caversham Tidy will be meeting and to sign up, visit their Facebook page or email keepcavershamtidy@gmail.com. Come when you can spare the time – there is no ongoing commitment. Equipment is provided. You just need suitable clothes and strong footwear. Families are welcome. Regular litter picks take place on Saturday mornings (from 10:00 to 12:00). Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. Details and sign-up forms are available on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/p/Keep-Caversham-Tidy-100082821120459



Useful tips from the BBC by Tricia Marcouse

THE RADIO 4 programme Sliced Bread investigates the truth behind different products. You may not be interested in the health benefits (or not) of mushroom coffee, but we all have to do washing-

up regularly, and all of us think that our methodology is the best, whether we use a dishwasher or wash by hand. Sliced Bread looked at the best way to do this in order to clean the dishes with the minimum of water and the least electricity. Key tips are to scrape waste food off the dishes and into the bin, do not pre-rinse before using the dishwasher, use the eco-programme on the dishwasher (it washes for longer at a lower temperature and maximises the use of enzymes), and add the

detergent to the bowl after running the water to reduce bubbles when handwashing. In general, using a dishwasher may have lower environmental impact than handwashing. Listen to the whole programme on www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001xdbx

On BBC One Morning Live a few weeks ago, Nancy Birtwhistle gave a masterclass on how to clean and refresh garden furniture (removing bird droppings, algae, moss, general dirt) after the winter, using cheap home-made

cleaning products from the kitchen cupboard. She covers wooden and plastic furniture and mouldy cushions. Her warning is to wear your oldest clothes, do it in the garden, and leave any polish to soak in before sitting down on your beautifully restored garden furniture.

Her programme can be seen on

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/profiles/4X4fMMVC6WC2IV9KFwFKF5n/nancy-birtwhistle

MAYPOLE DANCING

children and adults schools & clubs

Fun and dancing

0788 775 0721

www.Maypoledancing.co.uk

Anne@maypoledancing.co.uk

Thinking of selling your Caversham property?

How we're different...

- Presenter Led Property Videos
- Targeted Social Media Campaigns
- 1-2-1 Contact From Start To Finish
- Bespoke Marketing Plan For Your Property

"Friendly, Professional & Not Your Typical Estate Agents..."

debbieandandre@avocadopropertyagents.co.uk
Debbie 07387 602 900 Andre 07590 990 800



Steve Daniels

Painting & Decorating

30 years experience • City and Guilds Qualified

For a professional job and free quote

Tel 0118 961 3218 • Mobile 07917 106164
s.daniels4@ntlworld.com

D M B

Building and Roofing Specialist

Tel: (0118) 947 3503 • Mobile 07944 272804

FREE ESTIMATES & QUOTES
COMPETITIVE PRICES NO JOB TOO SMALL.
ALSO UNDERTAKEN SMALL BUILDING JOBS
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

GENERATEENERGY

SOLAR PV • BATTERY STORAGE • EV CHARGING

07837 390 102

INFO@GENERATEENERGY.CO.UK

WWW.GENERATEENERGY.CO.UK



Checkatrade.com

