

BI-MONTHLY LITTER PICK
Saturday 16th September, 2023



The litter pick today, did not feel like most other litter picks. Everyone arrived early, eager (as usual, but more so today) and were so excited to get going, that we didn't get a chance for a group photo!

They gratefully took their equipment and rushed onto the streets of West Moors. Maybe to avoid the rain, maybe because they were so passionate about protecting our environment and those that live in it – all species! – maybe both. Either way, the warmth that radiated from our litter heroes today was so appreciated and inspiring.

We had 23 volunteers collecting a total of 30 bags of rubbish within 2 hours. Random items such as petrol cans, fencing and even a bath, were found and reported.

The areas covered went from one end of West Moors (A31 truck stop/Abbey Road) to the North End of West Moors (Newmans Lane, past Gullivers Farm).

One volunteer picked up over 200 cigarette butts.

A request to all smokers out there – please do not drop your cigarette butts. It is a small action, with an item that is not obvious like other litter, but does not biodegrade.

Instead, they slowly leak a chemical cocktail of highly toxic and carcinogenic substances into the environment. In that way, the afterlife of cigarettes further adds to the havoc they already cause during their production and consumption.

Amongst our Angels today were;

Ian King, Rosie Brown, Rosemary Dunning, Lizzy/Darren/Ruth from Verwood Connect Day Centre, along with their Carer Glenn, Nigel Barclay, Val Harvey, Val Kelly, David Mansfield, Cllr Trevor Salt, Charmaine Hughes, Christine Risby, Gillian Chandler, Dee Elston, Steve Yeates, Alex Clarke, Malcolm Adam, Heather Barnsley, Janice Clyde and Sue Kent, and last but not least- George Sted.

We shouldn't have favourites – but today was a lesson in life for me.

Mr George Sted, 87 years old, who was recently widowed less than a week ago, found solace in our community event, where he even met new friends.

Georges attitude is the kind that we hope the next generation will adopt:

'Be proactive, be part of it, be kind'.

West Moors volunteers make the streets cleaner, spread their wonderful spirit as they go, and West Moors Town Council are very proud of them and what they do.

Remember – look after your environment and it will look after you.

Thank You.

