



## Get involved with the Great British Spring Clean



It is that time of year again - the Great British Spring Clean (GBSC) is back!

This spring clean is on a slightly larger scale than cleaning behind the sofa though; with the campaign for 2020 encouraging people to get out and about in their community to help keep the country beautiful as we head towards summer.

The campaign, organised by Keep Britain Tidy, will take place from 20 March until 23 April. In 2019, over **563,163** people nationally, including **175,055 students**, volunteered their time to take part - **the biggest number ever**.

The Love Solihull team is proud to be taking part in #GBSpringClean for another year, which aims to inspire people to work in partnership with community organisations, businesses, and schools to collect litter from Britain's streets.

Some of you have already been super organised this year and have been contacting us to get your date booked in the diary, great work! It's brilliant to hear so many people want to organise an event again this year following on from the huge success of GBSC 2019.

We just wanted to remind everyone of the support we can provide for your clean up.

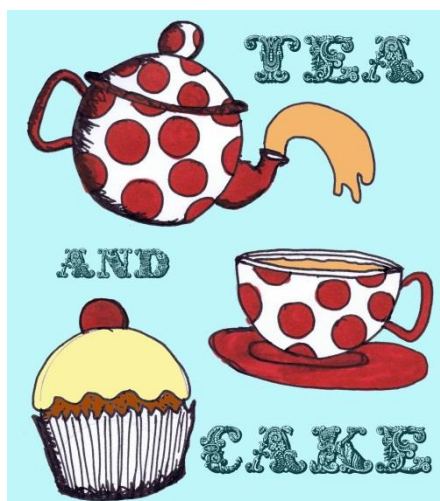
- Assistance with promotion of the event, including to our business contacts who may wish to get involved.
- Assistance with organising the event.
- Loan of equipment – litter pickers, hi-vis vests, branded GB Spring Clean bags supplied by Keep Britain Tidy
- Collection of waste bags after the event from an agreed collection point (branded GB Spring Clean bags will be required in order to ensure our contractor will be able to collect the bags after the litter pick).

As mentioned, a few groups have confirmed their dates for the GBSC 2020, if you need to borrow equipment get your date booked in with us soon, as we may not have enough equipment to cater for everyone's preferred date. Confirmed dates so far are -:

- 14<sup>th</sup> March – The Big One! Joint litter pick with Talking Rubbish and Clean & Green, 10am – 12:30pm, meeting at Chelmsley Wood Citizens Advice Bureau
- 21<sup>st</sup> March – Berkswell Parish Council – 10am – 12pm, meeting at the Spinney Car Park
- 21<sup>st</sup> March – Shirley Lions – 10am start – meeting at Shirley Library
- 28<sup>th</sup> March – Hobs Moat Community Litter Pick – 10am – 11am – meeting at Hobs Moat Library
- 29<sup>th</sup> March – Elmdon Park Litter Pickers – 9am – 10am – meeting the tennis courts
- 29<sup>th</sup> March – Greenhill Way Street Association – 11am – 12am – Greenhill Way Care Centre
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Hampton in Arden Parish Council - Hampton Village – 9:30am – 11:30am, meeting at The Beeches
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Hampton in Arden Parish Council - Catherine de Barnes Village – 9:30am – 11:30am, meeting at Catherine de Barnes Village Hall
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Olton Library Literary Litter Pickers – 10am – 11:00am meeting at Olton Library
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Friends of Shirley Park – 2:30pm – 4:30pm – meeting at the War Memorial
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Olton Literary Litter Pickers – 10:30 am – 11:30am – meeting at Olton Library
- 11<sup>th</sup> April – Friends of Jacey Park – 10am – 11am – meeting at Northbrook Surgery Car Park
- 21<sup>st</sup> April – Hobs Moat Library Literary Litter Pickers – 10am – 11am – meeting at Hobs Moat Library

If you would like to get involved with the 2020 campaign then please contact [lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk) or call 0121 704 6243, letting us know your preferred dates and what support you would like from us. You can also register your event with Keep Britain Tidy <https://www.keeptidytidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean> this will enable them to keep track of all the good work going on across the country!

### **Fundraisers Networking with Tea & Cake – Birmingham 25<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 12pm**



Get Grants are grant-funding experts, they provide practical support, advice, and information to grant fundraisers and grant makers. Get Grants are inviting fundraisers to their informal Fundraising Networking Social to share experiences and connect with other fundraisers in the region over a piece of cake.

Attending this event will give you the opportunity to:

- Meet like-minded people in the region who face similar challenges to you
- Share fundraising frustrations and successes
- Get new fundraising ideas and inspiration
- Have an informal chat with Get Grants' Fundraising Experts

This social is suitable for fundraisers working for a wide range of small to medium sized organisations including:

- Registered Charities
- Community Groups
- Scouts & Guides Groups
- Sports Clubs
- Schools
- Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- Non-Profit Limited Companies by Guarantee
- Social Enterprises

You can book a space using this link, <http://www.getgrants.org.uk/fundraisers-networking/>

If you cannot attend this networking social, you can get some fundraising ideas from their website <http://www.getgrants.org.uk/funding-finder/>

Here are some other websites you may find useful:-

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/grants-green-spaces/>

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/raising-finance-options/grants/>

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/project-fundraising-tips/>

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Planning/appealsenforcement/planmaking/Community-Infrastructure-Levy/Neighbourhood-Proportion>

If you are new to writing grant applications or would like some help with a bid please get in touch at [lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk) to see how we can support you.

### **Bins with a difference!**





Two special bright yellow cigarette bins are being trialled on Station Drive, Olton and Marston Drive in Kingshurst. These are the borough's first "Ballot Bins" which tackle the problem of cigarette butt litter. Funded by Love Solihull, the Council's environmental initiative supporting local communities, the bins have been shown to reduce this type of litter by almost half. Each bin displays a question and two answers. Smokers vote by putting their cigarette butt in the slots underneath their preferred answer. The litter stacks up behind the glass front, showing the more popular answer. Chris Dunster, Chair of Solihull's Talking Rubbish Steering Group which represents local litter picking groups, explains more about this quirky initiative: "It's a fun way to encourage people to bin their butts. Love Solihull came up with the first question but we'd like suggestions from the local community in future." People are encouraged to come up with something brief and light-hearted that people can vote on. The results will be published on Facebook – look for the Olton Literary Litter Pickers or Kingshurst Litter Pickers. If anyone is looking to stop smoking and needs support, go to [www.solihull.gov.uk/stopsmoking](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/stopsmoking)

### **Love Solihull & Voco® St. John's and plant new community orchard**



Voco® St. John's Solihull and Solihull Council officially launched a new orchard in Malvern Park in a positive step towards protecting and preserving Solihull's green canopy.

The voco® St. John's Community Orchard was completed with a Love Solihull community planting day which saw local volunteer groups Be Military Fit, Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing UK, Friends of Hillfield Park, and Damson Wood Litter Pickers, along with families and local residents digging for victory. Consisting of apple and plum trees, the orchard is open to everyone all year round and will create a new space for residents and visitors to enjoy and explore.

Announced last November, the collaboration between voco® St. John's Solihull and Solihull Council was established to support the Council's 'Urban Forestry' strategy – a vision to provide positive and tangible benefits for the health and wellbeing of the Solihull residency.

Jane Bowler, General Manager, voco® St. John's Solihull said: "We are delighted to finally open the voco St. John's Community Orchard. The orchard not only helps to increase the tree population in Solihull, but it also provides a new space for residents to enjoy at any time of the year. It's important for any business to have a positive impact on the local community but we're proud to be leaving a lasting legacy that can be enjoyed by generations to come. We can't wait to see the first harvest of fruit later this year."

Councillor Stuart Davis, The Mayor of Solihull, said: "I am delighted to be a part of creating this new orchard in Malvern Park and it's been wonderful to see so many members of the local community joining in. We are very proud of the parks and green spaces in our borough, so it's pleasing to see local organisations like voco® St John's Solihull supporting us as we continually invest in them."

Voco™ is committed to delivering quality and sustainability; from reducing single-use plastics with glass water bottles, aerated shower heads reducing water usage, and removing miniature bathroom amenities, to adopting high-quality bedding made from environmentally friendly materials in its rooms. With sustainability at the core of the brand, voco® St. John's Solihull has worked with the council to help protect the green canopy in Solihull.



### **Healing habitats in Hillfield Park**

You may have seen in our residents' magazine and the local media the good news that we are set to create an armed forces community garden in Hillfield Park.

This means that veterans and their family members, local schools and other members of the community will soon benefit from a place of remembrance and reflection. It is also hoped the garden will be somewhere to help people overcome isolation, as it will provide a welcoming place to meet up and interact with others.

Landscape architect Sal Bridges has been designing the garden and explains the concept behind it: "Essentially this is an eco-therapy project which comprises a series of therapeutic natural habitats for people to explore. These habitats aim to improve bio-diversity and provide opportunities to improve and maintain the wellbeing of the armed forces community through nature-based activities.

The overarching concept is one of 'healing habitats' and the garden looks to include a community wildlife garden, summer meadow, community orchard and lots of places where individuals can sit and contemplate or meet with other individuals.

Sal has been working closely with the Love Solihull team and Royal British Legion to develop the plans, which will come to life over the coming months.

Keep up-to-date with the project as it progresses by signing up to the Stay Connected email bulletin at

[www.solihull.gov.uk/stayconnected](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/stayconnected) and select the 'Armed Forces Community Garden' topic. We will also be creating a page on the Council website to share information about what's happening, so watch this space!

**Thank you for connecting with Love Solihull.**

**Love Solihull actively encourages residents and businesses to make a difference to the environment and support those who co-ordinate their own projects.**

**Email alerts will be sent out throughout the year giving information on environmental projects including what is happening in your area and how you can get involved.**

**More information can be found at [www.lovesolihull.org](http://www.lovesolihull.org)**

For more information about Council services, please see our [website](#).

