

**RESCUE 2007— 10th & 11th March**

# RIVERS & ENVIRONMENTAL SPACES CLEAN UP EVENT



## RESCUE 2007 — ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

September  
2007

RESCUE is a community-led clean-up event held every year in and around Reading. Volunteers work in parks, open spaces and the riverside to transform these areas of natural beauty into litter-free environments.

This newsletter has been produced to summarise some of the great stories from this years event. We hope you like reading about the fantastic people who took part in RESCUE 2007 and enjoy looking at the photos.

Plans are now afoot for

RESCUE 2008. We hope that this newsletter inspires you to help out at a RESCUE clean-up near you or even start your own event! RESCUE 2008 is to be held on the weekend of 15th and 16th of March.

We are also looking for people to join the RESCUE Action Group. The duties of the Action Group are to help plan, publicise and deliver RESCUE.

If you are interested in joining or would like further information, please contact Summreen Sheikh.



From left—Lisa, Liam, Helen, Natalie, Sade and Abi at the Fair Trade art workshop at the RESCUE HQ

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## Waterloo Meadows Childrens' Centre

It wasn't just adults spring cleaning the green spaces of Reading during RESCUE. Children were taking pride in their riverside as well! Youngsters were enjoying an arts workshop at the RESCUE HQ at Waterloo Meadows Children's Centre.

After having fun creating and painting models, the local children demanded litter pickers and a bin bag. They were kind enough to allow an adult, Steven Beauchamp, from Groundwork to join them. Steven got to carry the

rubbish sack, as the youngsters spent their time, combing an area that took in the river bank, play area, BMX track and grass area.

Careless people had discarded plastic bottles, sweet wrappers, fizzy drink cans and more. The litter was not only unsightly, but also posed a danger to the ducks, geese and swans. So much time and effort was spent cleaning up, that the bag was fit to burst. The team was eventually persuaded to head back



Local children from Katesgrove with their litter pickings from the meadows surrounding the RESCUE HQ.

to the Children's Centre with their haul of litter, which was recycled or put in the skip

Thanks to them and

eleven other volunteers, including local Councillor Richard Stainthorpe, Waterloo Meadows was left looking spick and span after RESCUE!



## CAVERSHAM STORIES!

**Caversham Globe** worked hard along Hills Meadow and Deans Farm riverside path.

Nine volunteers worked both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The group collected an astonishing 32 bags of rubbish!

less litter to collect this year.

The group believe that when an area is litter-free, others will be less likely to drop rubbish.



The Caversham Globe group on a clean-up mission.

The nine enjoyed good weather, but found graffiti spray cans, a needle and bolt cutters amongst the rubbish collected.

In nearby **Bugs Bottom** eleven volunteers collected 4 bags of litter and a big pile of rubbish.

Due to their thorough efforts in years gone by, they found that there was

The group found it satisfying to pick up even the smallest amount of litter, leaving the beauty spot as nature intended!

*The group believe that when an area is litter-free, others will be less likely to drop rubbish.*

## IT'S ALL GOING ON!

**Newtown Globe** recruited 14 volunteers to work on Sunday morning in The Coal (the woodland behind Tesco's at Napier Road).

Due to high water levels on the rivers, the **Environment Agency** were on dry land helping skim skips at different locations around Reading.

As well as sponsoring the event Reading wide, **First Great Western** also got their hands dirty when they combined forces with the Environment Agency and cleared a small stream running along the edge of Victoria Park and Great Knolly's Street.

The team found a lot of litter and fly tipping in the stream including some large items.

**West Berks** saw another successful RESCUE event with staff from Vodafone helping out during the week in Newbury.



First Great Western and the Environment Agency.

## SPREAD THE WORD!

*The Earley Environmental Group managed a fantastic job in recruiting an amazing 53 volunteers!*

Just across the Reading border, the Earley Environmental Group were working hard. They spruced up Laurel Park, the banks of the River Loddon, Sol Joel Park, and a footpath in a green space, just off Lower Earley Way.

The EEG managed a fantastic job in recruiting

an amazing 53 volunteers! Even more amazing, was the fact that these volunteers were recruited purely by word of mouth! The recruits worked both days and ended up collecting 65 bags of rubbish!

The first-timers were surprised by the amount of rubbish collected in what

they thought was a clean looking suburb!



Three young volunteers hard at work from Earley.

## CLEAN UP THE COWSEY!

A joint effort was seen in the Cowsey with the Whitley Green Residents' Association being assisted by a local football club and the Youth Offending Team. All pulled together to help clear the popular dog walking site in Whitley.

Eddie Lyford, organiser of the Cowsey Clean-up Crew insisted that this was the best RESCUE they'd had. 25 volunteers helped collect 37 bags of rubbish from an area of 250 sq yds.

"We found a fruit machine, three car wheels,

pipework and guttering amongst the junk!" Eddie told us. "The site suffers from a lot of rubbish which is blown over from Rabsons Rec. There is still more to do, but it was a joy to walk through afterwards."



The Cowsey Clean-up Crew. Councillor Christine Grieve, organisers Eddie and Clodagh Lyford with Bethel United football club and Dave Booth from RBC Parks department, among others.

The Crew also cleaned the area near Foxhays Road, where an incredible eight tonnes of rubbish was collected in the skips.



*"There was so much litter scattered around, we could have spent three full days there!"*

*Marion Berlier of Novotel Hotels*

## NOVOTEL STAFF ROLL THEIR SLEEVES UP!

A team of four from the Novotel Hotel in Reading cleared up litter from Beechwood in Emmer Green.

Marion Berlier said, "It was really good trying to make a difference by clearing part of Beech-

wood. The weather was great as well!"

The Novotel Team were surprised by the amount of litter they found in Beechwood. Marion went on to say, "There was so much litter scattered around, we could

have spent three full days there!"

Novotel are keen to take part in RESCUE 2008. "I look forward to doing something similar again. My team thoroughly enjoyed the experience and asked for more!"



The Novotel Team cleaning up Beechwood.

## TILEHURST TIDIED UP!

The Tilehurst Globe and Tilehurst Allotment groups joined forces to clean a huge area and left Tilehurst looking beautiful!

The group tackled Blundell's Copse on the Saturday, where they reported lots of takeaway cartons littering the

wooded area.

They also swept past McIlroys Park!

The Tilehurst Triangle along School Road and Walnut Way also received their attention. As did the area behind the supermarket.

The group would also like to express their thanks to the Reading Borough Council skip skimming service over the weekend, who contributed to 2007 being one of their best years for RESCUE!

Wonderful chaps!

*"RESCUE 2007 was the best event we've had so far!"*

*Eddie Lyford from the Cowsey Clean Up Crew*

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**Reading**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



the business community  
partnership for Reading

# SATURDAY SWAP-SHOP AT VIC REC WHILE SOUTHCOTE GLOBE CLEAR THE MEADOWS

**Armour Road Resident's Association and the Armour Road Allotments** worked hard in Victoria Rec, Armour Road, Armour Hill and the allotments.

21 volunteers helped clear these areas throughout the weekend. As a result of their efforts, 5 skips were filled.

In addition to their hard work, the group came up

with an innovative idea to save waste and help recycling.

They held a swap-shop, where local residents were able to exchange items.

The idea was a complete success, as over 300 items changed hands!

The volunteers were even awarded prizes from local businesses!

Meanwhile **Southcote Globe** transformed the area around the railway line next to Kennet Meadows.

Ten volunteers worked through Saturday, collecting 20 bags of rubbish in the process.

At one particularly productive stage, the group filled 10 bags of rubbish in just one hour!

# SCHOOLS, BROOKS, STATS AND THANKS!

**Wilson Primary School** rolled up their sleeves for RESCUE.

Kids and grown-ups got their gloves on to clear the playing field in Tofrek Terrace.

11 volunteers managed to collect up to 30 bags of rubbish as they worked on Saturday morning.

The volunteers did note that most of the litter was alcohol related. They are hoping that the new alcohol exclusion zone will help minimise the litter in the future.

However, the group also noticed that the total amount of litter has decreased year on year.

Four committed volunteers from **Queens Cot-**



Stewart Gratland of **Queen's Cottages.**

**tages** worked throughout the weekend, in and around Gunters Brook. They cleared litter and cut back vegetation from this small but valuable area of green space near the Oracle shopping centre.

## The Stats:

20 groups took part in RESCUE 2007, involving 315 volunteers.

The volunteers worked a total of 630 hours.

17 skips were used to take away the collected rubbish.

The total weight of rubbish that the skips carried away was 20.5 tonnes!

**A big THANK YOU to everyone who took part in RESCUE 2007!**

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Contact us to get involved!