




KINGS HEATH & BRANDWOOD LITTER PICKERS' Winter Newsletter – January 2025



Welcome!

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.
We hope you enjoy it.

If you have ideas for future editions or
would like to contribute, please email us at:
B14litterpickers@gmail.com

If you would like to join our group, please
email us or visit our facebook page 



Our New Year litter picks:

January:

Sunday 5th, 12th, 26th January

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

10:00am-11:00am

Sunday 19th January

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

10:00am-11:30am

February:

Sunday 2nd, 9th, 23rd February

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

10:00am-11:00am

Sunday 16th February

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

10:00am-11:30am

March:

Sunday 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th March

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

10:00am-11:00am

Sunday 16th March

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

10:00am-11:30am

Other Groups' Litter Picks

For information on other local litter picking
group sessions see contact details on page 3.

Kit notes:

Kit for **loan** to our litter pickers includes:

- ❖ Grabber
- ❖ Ring to hold blue rubbish bags open
- ❖ Blue rubbish bags
- ❖ Gloves
- ❖ High Viz vest
- ❖ There are brooms and brushes if needed.
- ❖ There are also smaller grabbers available for children to use

*We will provide details of how to get hold of
kit if you decide to join us.*

***Please return any unused kit to 'York
Supplies' on Waterloo Road.***



Chair's update

Hello fellow litter pickers and friends

I hope you all enjoyed Christmas and I wish you all a safe and happy 2025.

I don't know if you have noticed but the pandemic has made us all more friendly. When I'm litter picking or walking the dog, so many people say hello, or good morning or even just a smile is great. Also, some of you out there who aren't litter pickers go above and beyond. There was the man who offered to pick up a large soggy box on Silver Street which wouldn't fit into my bag. He carried the dripping box all the way to the High Street and pushed it into a bin. One cold and winter's day a fellow litter picker was picking up a box of scattered jigsaw pieces and was given a hot cup of coffee by a woman who works in a nail salon on the High Street. Then in Brandwood another litter picker was helped when a local resident helped her to move a large and cumbersome box across Yarningdale Road. And there are so many people who say thank you or stop for a chat. All these experiences really help us to enjoy what we do. So thank you for supporting us.

We go out to litter pick in all weathers except heavy rain. Sometimes the litter is really wet and it's hard to pick up and more recently, with the frosts, it has been stuck hard to the ground. It's all a challenge and we get what we can. A group of us meet on Sundays in York Road at 10am so we can have a chat before we get on with the work. Another social event was the Christmas party at the Loco Lounge in December which included a quiz and a sing song. It was great fun and the staff at the Loco Lounge did a great job in making us welcome and providing excellent food.

So here we are in another year. There has been more litter because of the bin strikes and people are still dropping their cigarette ends on the ground. Please don't. With everyone's help and support, we will carry on keeping your streets as clean as possible. Here's to a clean and tidy New Year.

That's all for now but if you'd like to join us or join our graffiti removal team, or if you can no longer litter pick, for whatever reason, please send me an email via:

B14litterpickers@gmail.com

Andrea x



Volunteer Hours

- ❖ 6,241 volunteer hours recorded – June 2021 to December 2024
- ❖ An average of 149 hours a month

Strange items of litter

Here are some strange items of litter found by members of our group. Please share photos of any that you find. The stranger the better!



Kids mobile



Legoland coin



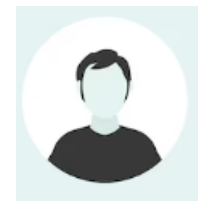
Weed killer dispenser



Abandoned dog on Bryndale Avenue – might have to go into Kennels!



A warning to all “litterers” – it can cost you!



Carl ‘X’ of Brandwood and Kings Heath

Pleaded guilty to one offence of dropping litter in High Street, Kings Heath, Birmingham

Paid £78 fine plus £175 costs – **total £253**



“Grot Spots”

Please let us know if you come across any ‘grot spots’ via and we can help raise awareness of the problem, including through this newsletter.

You can use [what3words](#) to let us know the precise location.

If you observe fly-tipping on Council land, you can report it at www.fixmystreet.com

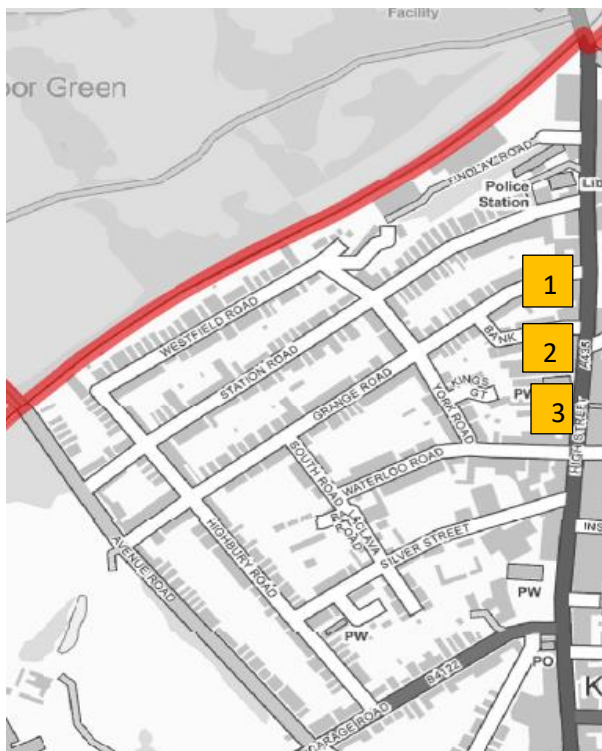


Institute Road
what3words: winter.costs.listed



Broad Lane
what3words: privately.props.chops

Focus on: Kings Heath – west of High Street



- Most littered streets are adjacent to the High Street – e.g. Grange Road, Bank Street and Station Road
- Grot spots on Grange Road (1), Bank Street (2) and Milford Place (3)
- Fewer litter pickers than on the east side of the High Street
- High Street regularly cleaned by the City Council
- Recent ‘grot spot’ on Grange Road being redeveloped for flats



Waste Reporting Routes

Local problems such as graffiti, fly-tipping, broken paving or street lighting can be reported via [FixMyStreet](#) who will report the problem to the City Council.

Specific problems can also be reported directly as follows:

An overflowing public litter or dog waste bin	Contact us about a public litter bin Birmingham City Council
Fly-tip i.e. dumped rubbish amounting to more than a black bin bag amount (note missed household bin collections should be reported by the household to the City Council: Report a missed bin or sack collection Birmingham City Council)	Report fly-tipping Birmingham City Council
Abandoned shopping trolleys	TrolleyWise Retrieving & Returning Abandoned Shopping Trolleys Wanzl
Abandoned vehicles	Report an abandoned vehicle Birmingham City Council
Illegally dangerously parked vehicles	National Dash Cam Safety Portal Nextbase UK
Dumped signs or highway obstructions	Report a highway or pavement obstruction Birmingham City Council
Graffiti in public places	<p>Graffiti removal Birmingham City Council</p> <p>Graffiti in the following places can be reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BT cabinets (painted green) – BT Openreach ➤ Virgin Media cabinets (painted grey) – Virgin Media ➤ Bus stops and shelters – Transport for West Midlands ➤ Electricity substations – National Grid ➤ Canal side towpaths – Canal & River Trust ➤ Railway lines – Network Rail
Dog fouling on public land	Dog related details Dog related enquiries
Dead animals in public places	Request dead animal removal Birmingham City Council
Hypodermic needles in public places	Report hypodermic needles in public places Birmingham City Council

You can request street cleaning by the City Council using the following link: [Request street cleaning | Birmingham City Council](#)

To report waste to the City Council or request a street clean you will need to register for a **BRUM account** – details of how to do this are included in the City Council webpage links above.



'High Street Nightmare'

A poem by Ruth Davies

*I had a dream the other night
It woke me up with such a fright.
I dreamt that everyone in town
Just went and threw their litter down.
I waded through rubbish on the High Street
It was so deep, couldn't see my feet.
All the traffic was covered with goo
Buses, trucks, cars and cyclists too.
The awful smell was strong and thick
I could hardly breathe, I felt so sick.
And my clothes were covered in dirt
My lovely jeans and my best shirt.
The gulls were having a fine old time
Pecking at fast food through the grime.
The sky turned nasty, it started to rain
But the water couldn't go down the drain.
The rubbish got wet and turned into sludge
Nothing was moving, I couldn't budge.
A pile of dog poo was on the top
I cried out loud, Stop, Stop, Stop!
Then I woke up, I was okay
I knew what I must do that day.
Get my bags and litter picker too
And help clean my town for me and you.*



Bin Quiz!

Can you match the bin to the place?

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



	Image No.		Image No.		Image No.
Bristol		Manchester		Pontefract	
Durham		Leeds		Disney World	



Newshound's 'Recycling Corner'



At this time of year many households are thinking about having a 'spring clean' and getting rid of unwanted items they no longer use. Here are some tips for what to do with them:

Household Recycling Centres

Good quality items can be donated for reuse at Household Recycling Centres:

- furniture
- electrical items that are in working order, including vacuum cleaners and fans
- bicycles, even if they are missing some parts
- household goods, for example, picture frames, storage boxes, and fire surrounds
- garden tools and lawnmowers
- bric-a-brac

[Donate your unwanted items | Birmingham City Council](#)

Charity Shop Donations

Charity shops on Kings Heath High Street accept donations as follows:

Oxfam Books and Music	Books, magazines, pop and classical vinyl and CDs, DVDs, coins and stamps
Acorns	Pre-loved fashion, shoes, accessories, toys, books and homeware
Children's Air Ambulance	Clothing (adults and children's); toys and games (no electrical items)
Sue Ryder	Furniture (send a photo beforehand), electricals, clothing (adult only), homewares, books, music
British Heart Foundation	Clothing, shoes and accessories, books, music, toys and games, homeware (not furniture or curtains)
Age UK	Furniture, clothing, shoes, electrical goods, music, books, homeware, bric-a-brac
Barnardos	Good quality clothes, shoes and accessories, books, music, films, consoles and games, music and instruments, small homewares, toys, games, antiques and collectables (no furniture or electricals)
PDSA	Clothing, shoes, bags, toys and games, books, stamps, homeware, music, foreign coins, used ink jet printer cartridges
British Red Cross	Clothes, shoes, jewellery, books and music, toys and games, small electrical items, small furniture (if delivered), homeware

Moseley and Kings Heath Shed in Kings Heath Park collect unwanted tools for Africa – details of how to donate to follow in our Spring newsletter.