

Anything else?

Other highlights from April/May

- Shrub replanting took place in Draycote Close, Damson Wood.
- Environment Champions did a community litter pick in Dovehouse Lane, Olton
- A pond clearing and litter pick project took place in Chelveston Crescent, Monkspath
- Environment Champions supported the Park Rangers in Queens Gardens, Chelmsley Wood, painting the footbridge rails and benches
- Volunteers from the Princes Trust Team painted the Shopmobility Shop on Drury Lane, Solihull
- A community clean up took place in Shirley park

What's coming up

Champs from Area Two show their horticultural expertise nationwide – Barbara and John from Area Two are expert gardeners and have an eye for detail. Look out for them in the Which? magazine for April/May where they will be showing their expertise on the lawn in their back garden!

Love Food Hate Waste Campaign – Six Champs are supporting road shows with the Waste and Recycling team to spreading the word and **staff a stand at Asda in Chelmsley Wood throughout May.**

Jubilee Gardens Community Day takes place on May 18. This will be a real coming together of local

shops, primary schools and local residents to help tidy up the gardens.

Touchwood Summer Bedding project takes place on May 24 – Three borough schools come together to help brighten up Manor Walk and Library Square with bedding plants supplied by Touchwood.

Hockley Heath Gardeners Club – The Environment Champions will be helping with planting for this years In Bloom competition **in June** - if you have some free time please let me know – the more hands the merrier!

Allotment Vacancies

Due to two large extensions at Jillcot Road Allotment Site off Hobs Moat Road, we currently have a number of vacant plots and no waiting list for the site. If anyone is interested in taking on an allotment in this area, this is a great opportunity as the majority of sites in the Borough have waiting lists of at least a year. For further information contact Rebecca Webber on 0121 704 6115 or visit the website <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/parks/allotments.htm>

A personal thank you!

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a BIG thank you to Enterprise and Ringway who are our two Strategic Contractors, without whose support the Champions' projects would not come to fruition.

Trish Willetts
Environment Champion Co-ordinator
Tel: 0121 704 6534
Email: pwilletts@solihull.gov.uk

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2011. The first half of this year has been really busy for us and there have been many success stories which have been highlighted in this newsletter. There is much to look forward to as we continue get our communities working together. Well done for all of your hard work so far and here's to a great and successful 2011!

What you've done!

Litter pick me up!

In April the residents from St. Francis Gardens in Olton all came out to help the Environment Champions on a litter pick of the open space. Working together for an hour in the glorious Spring sunshine they collected 10 bags containing a variety of things including an animal skull – being one of the Champions' most amazing finds.

In addition to the clean up Neighbourhood Management are planning some improvements later this year to the area adjacent to the St Bernard's Rd entrance of St Francis Gardens. These will include raising the tree canopy, removing some of the overgrown vegetation which will open up the area, helping to eradicate antisocial behaviour and repairing the broken sections of fencing.

The Environment Champions will be going back to St Francis Gardens in the autumn with a group from The Challenge (a Government initiative in the West Midlands working with young adults to develop their life skills to help them find employment) to plant bulbs in the area!



What you've done!

See the wood for the trees

The Sustainable Team from Solihull Council came together with the Environment Champions to help Langley Senior School clear the woodland area. A 30 strong Environment Champion team from Npower came out on 3 and 4 March to help clear the woodland area to the rear of the school and open up some pathways to enable the students to use the area for Woodland curriculum studies. Also as Reynolds Cross Special School is also on the site the team were mindful to ensure that the pathways were wide enough for wheelchair access. The volunteers litter picked, cut bramble, created paths, moved logs and re-sited bird boxes to help the school.

A helping hand

Environment Champions from Knowle, Monkspath, Birmingham and Stourbridge came together to help Mr & Mrs Barlow at their property in Willow Drive, Cheswick Green. A brook that runs along the back of their property had become so overgrown with vegetation that it was causing concern for flooding. The team came to the rescue and resolved the issue in 4 hours! A local Champion litter picked around the village on the same day collecting two full bags of rubbish!



What you've done!

A greener cleaner graveyard

A corporate team from ISS at Birmingham Business Park came out to assist the Castle Bromwich Community Project. They not only gave up their time to help clear bramble, but supplied the bags to put the rubbish in and the shrubs to create a wonderful community garden at the top of the graveyard. They were supported by the youth team from Castle Bromwich youth and community centre who regularly give up their time to assist with the maintenance of the graveyard.

