Dynamic Duo Rewarded for Decade of Beach Clean-Ups

An Aberdonian couple has received the national Clean Up Scotland ‘Hero of the Month’ award in recognition of their continued commitment to cleaning up Scotland’s beaches. The award is part of our national Clean Up Scotland campaign.

For over a decade Iain and Julia House have organised regular beach cleaning activities in the Aberdeen area. Their efforts have encouraged more than 2,000 local volunteers to get involved in 50 beach Clean-Ups and raised awareness of the importance of protecting and enhancing Scotland’s treasured beaches and marine life.

Iain and Julia have helped the Marine Conservation Society Adopt-a-Beach programme for a number of years and regularly promote litter cleaning initiatives led by the Council, alongside supporting local organisations to undertake their own company Clean-Up events.

Iain House commented: “Julia and I started clearing up litter on Scotland’s beaches 15 years ago under the umbrella of the Marine Conservation Society’s Adopt-a-Beach programme. In that time we have organised, for local volunteers in the Aberdeen area, over 50 beach clean ups and litter surveys.”

“As well as the direct benefit of improving the beautiful environment, we hope that our efforts help to raise awareness of the importance of taking care of the sea and its wildlife in a sustainable way. I would like to thank all our keen regular beach cleaners but also say that anyone can come to our beach clean ups, no training necessary. We always welcome new volunteers.”

Iain and Julia visited our offices in Stirling where they were presented with the award. The Clean Up Scotland Hero award is supported by Helping Hand Environmental which provides each Hero with a Clean Up kit - including a new Scottish litter picker and handy hoop.

Nicola Turner, Community Projects Officer at Keep Scotland Beautiful said:

“I congratulate Iain and Julia for their continued commitment to preserving and protecting Aberdeen’s beaches and marine life. Their efforts have helped to encourage many more local volunteers to take part in litter picking activities which has undoubtedly significantly improved the local coastline.

“Keep Scotland Beautiful recognises that there are many volunteers across Scotland who are working very hard to clean up and green up their local area. I would encourage everyone to consider nominating their local Clean Up Scotland Hero so that they too can be recognised for their hard work.”

Catherine Gemmel, Scotland Conservation Officer at the Marine Conservation Society, added:

“Iain and Julia have been running Marine Conservation Society beach cleans and surveys for 15 years during which they have helped over 2,000 volunteers pick up and survey three tonnes of litter from Aberdeen beach! They aren’t planning on stopping anytime soon either, with their event for this year’s Great British Beach Clean already booked in for the 17th of September. Well done both and a heartfelt thank you from everyone here at the Marine Conservation Society!”

If you know a Hero, do not forget to nominate them. You can find more information here.
Guides Litter Pick

On Monday 27 June the Guide Group in Coupar Angus spent their last meeting before the holidays doing a Litter Pick in town. A few of the local bloom/community group Pride of Place (PoP) joined them providing litter pickers and black bags.

Anne Easson, Chair of PoP said: “We discussed the problems of dropping litter, cigarette butts and irresponsible dog owners.

The guides split into groups and off we went. We were all well pleased to report that our town was remarkably free of litter, only one dog faeces was found but many, many cigarette butts, in spite of PoP having a campaign to put butts in containers provided by PoP, widely advertised and made freely available within town.

Our group has regular litter picks. Less litter is also a result of our town street sweeper who is very conscientious and often seen sweeping up the butts from the gutters.

We have discovered the best way to encourage children to help with litter picking, is asking our uniformed groups, brownies, guides and cubs to have it as one of their usual meetings and us to offer assistance.

We had a great and very worthwhile evening with the Guides, so thank you Guides.”

Green Flag Award Announcement

The 2016 Green Flag Award announcement took place in MacRosty Park in Crieff (receiving the award for the 6th consecutive year) on Thursday 21 July. Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform was on hand to present the flag to Perth and Kinross Council.

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark for quality green spaces, recognising parks for high standards and excellent management, including cleanliness, maintenance, safety and community involvement.

In total, 70 green spaces across Scotland received a Green Flag Award. This year, for the first time in Scotland, a cemetery (The new Dumbarton Cemetery) also received an award.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer judge or want to know more about the Green Flag Award visit:
www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/greenflagaward
Trash Converters Blitz the Grassmarket for #NeatStreets

On Saturday, 23 July our #NeatStreets campaign trialled a quirky anti-littering intervention, first conceived and trialled by partners HUUBUB UK down in London. The concept is simple: fancy-dress ‘Trashconverters’ engage night-time revellers in popular nightlife spots exchanging their litter for gifts in a bid to reduce the littering associated with the night-time economy.

Dressed as executioners in keeping with the Grassmarket’s gruesome history, though with a rainbow twist, our cheerful Trashconverters hit the street calling out for people to put their litter in their barrow, in exchange for a colourful lollipop.

The stunt was well-received, and a very full bin bag of litter was collected as a result over the two-hour period, weighing in at 4.5 Kg. More importantly, 140 people were engaged with our message and hopefully will think twice next time before throwing their litter in the street.

The Mansfield Estate Residents Committee
organised a Clean Up day on the estate of 180 properties on 16 May 2016.

With the help of Highland Council, local Councillors and businesses and residents, we had a great day.

On 25 June in the Hospitalfield area of Arbroath, Zero Waste Scotland, Transform Community Development, McDonalds Arbroath and Carnoustie Panmure F.C. Youths organised a Clean Up in the hospital area of Arbroath. There were a total of 32 volunteers and an incredible 18 bags of litter collected.

David Nicoll from Transform Community Development commented: “On the pick, which took place from the Westway right the way down to the beach, there were some really positive comments from passers-by who were glad to see our efforts and supportive of volunteers doing this kind of work.”

Your stories

Take 2 Minutes to Keep Scotland Beautiful
Suzy Gow from Edinburgh has written a fantastic piece about participating in a #2MinuteCleanUp on the Healthy Edinburgh blog.

Having spent hours cleaning up her local neighbourhood, she commented: “I’m happy that I am able to do my little bit to keep my neck of the woods a bit cleaner and safer. And that’s what the ‘Clean Up Scotland’ campaign is trying to promote. If we all do our little bit in our own neighbourhoods, then everyone benefits.”

Read the full article [here](#).

This follows the successful allocation of 96 Development Grants in 2014/15 which supported a wide variety of community-led organisations to develop their Climate Challenge Fund applications and build their capacity to take climate action. Keep Scotland Beautiful manages and develops the Climate Challenge Fund on behalf of the Scottish Government and looks forward to supporting Development Grant applicants.

Development Grants of up to £1,500 are available now and Keep Scotland Beautiful will consider applications on a monthly basis.

You can read more about Development Grants and apply at:

[www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/ccfdevgrants](http://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/ccfdevgrants)

**Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise Awards Ceremony**

The Inspiring Volunteer Awards Ceremony 2016 will be held in the Albert Halls on 19 September from 6pm to 8pm.

Please click [here](#) if you wish to nominate someone for an award.