

Dear volunteer

Thank you for turning out on Saturday to make the clean-up a success. 15 people came for litter picking plus Abigail (Sustrans) for much appreciated moral support, Jane and Chris (Manchester City Council) for opening up the wonderful Gorton Community Centre and providing refreshments, and Lorraine with the almost impossible job of trying to capture the spirit of the day in pictures.

As you probably know I do like to 'count the bags' mainly so we can quantify the littering problem over time and thereby come up with a strategy for the future. So, for your information, these are the number of bags we left for collection at roadside points this time (which includes a further 5 bags that I got out on Sunday mainly by extending the clean-up slightly at either end):

4 bags - Debdale Water Park
23 bags - Gorton Community Centre
4 bags - Hollybush St
14 bags - Butterton Drive
16 bags - Longford St
7 bags - Walmer St
8 bags - Crabcroft Close
2 bags - Ashton Old Road
17 bags - Louisa St
6 bags - Sexa St
8 bags - Claytonbrook Road

Total = 109 bags (plus unbagged items)

I attach links to photos of these (except the Longford St collection which I missed when photographing - this included the large number of cushions). I think it's rather impressive that so few people can shift so much rubbish in one day, don't you ? You were awesome !!

These figures are significantly different from last October's two day event especially around the Ogden Lane bridge (less than 8 bags this time) and Ashton Old Road bridge (2 bags this time) whereas we got out 62 and 61 bags respectively last time. I have done a small amount of clean-up at these bridges in the intervening period (8/2/2018 - 7 bags and 14/5/2018 - 2 bags at Ashton Old Road and 14/2/2018 - 5 bags at Ogden Lane) but this goes nowhere near accounting for the difference. There are a lot of possible explanations but at the end of the day, it doesn't matter what the reason is even though it is an intriguing question. However, for sure, the initial clean-up was the key and that is why your volunteering on big clean-ups is so valuable.

You'll be pleased to learn that all the bags and other rubbish were cleared by Biffa on Tuesday morning - thank you to Jane and Chris for arranging this.

See you next time I hope, and thanks for your wonderful support once again,

Charles

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Charles Kinniburgh