

Barrow Community Litter Pickers



February/March 2021

Barrow Weir/Barrow Boating

The grassy area from Barrow Boating, around the footpath towards Barrow weir always seems to get plenty of accumulated rubbish after a winter season of floods and high water levels. This winter has been no exception, but we had to wait under the waters started to recede in mid February before we could safely make a start.

15th February was a lovely warm and sunny morning and very well received after a few weeks of cold, bitter winds, rain and snow. 3 of us meet up for a spot of socially distanced solo litter picking. As you can see from the photos below, the area was covered in plastics, bottles, surprisingly there were also lots of shoes and more than a fair share of fire extinguishers.





Karen and Sam clearing the area just after the sluice gates along the footpath.

This area is popular for local fishermen but full of waste washed up by the floods.

We kept to this one area, and after one hour we had collected 20 bags of rubbish between us.

Barrow Boating let us use their skip to dispose of the rubbish – thank you.

After photos below show what a difference one hour can make.



Later the same week, on **19th February**, we were back again to tackle another couple of areas. First we attacked an area behind the fence which is a bit of a wildlife haven and usually out of bounds to us. Again, lots of washed up rubbish of all sorts of shapes and sizes from the floods were cleared away to make a cleaner and safer environment for the various animals we share our home with.



Karen and Alison hard at it



What a difference.....

Along with Liz we also tackled the area just before the bridge over the weir. Soo had been here the day before and dragged all sorts of strange objects up from the waters edge, mangled umbrellas, shoes (again), a tyre, and a childs buggy! Thanks Soo.

The area on the right, immediately after the gate, but before the bridge looked as if it had been used as a bin for poo bags. One full bin bag just for poo bags we collected from that small area. Thank fully there is now a litter bin situated at the far end of the bridge for dog owners to use so this behaviour should reduce – fingers crossed.

After a good hour we had all had enough for the day. We must have collected at least another 20 bags from the areas we cleared, but still lots to do over the next few weeks if the water continues to recede. Lots of space outside to keep ourselves safely socially distanced throughout.

Thanks to everyone that came past to chat and provide encouragement- it means a lot to have your support.

5th March saw us linking up previously cleared areas with some deep diving into the backwater areas. Luckily the area is so large that we can all have our own area to clear, keeping a safe distance from anyone else.

Some unusual finds from today include a radiator, wheels from the bottom of a chair, a speaker, one rather deflated old hopper, a very large piece of tubing (modelled below by Felix), a really long scaffolding pole, and various metal poles. And about 20 bags of grot removed from the area.

A few more visits required to certain areas where the rubbish is really embedded in the trees and shrubs, plus where it's been around for years and is breaking down or broken up into quite small pieces.



Alison

Liz



Felix

We also saw some of nature's fabulous reminders of how lovely this area can be, with daffodils out and a pair of swans in the backwater.



After a good 90 minutes we called it a day and started to take our finds over the skip at Barrow Boating who let us use their skip to dispose of the rubbish – thank you.



Feliz, Karen, Liz and Alison