



## KINGS HEATH & BRANDWOOD LITTER PICKERS

Winter Newsletter – February 2026



Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of our newsletter! We hope you find it interesting and enjoyable.

If you would like to join a litter pick or contribute to the newsletter, please email us at [b14litterpickers@gmail.com](mailto:b14litterpickers@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page.

You can find the dates of future litter picks on the back page.



### Strange items of litter

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



We reported this to the Police – they said it was a matter for the Gnome Office.



Christmas jumper!



## Chair's Update

Hello to all our litter pickers, supporters and friends,

Litter continues to blow along our streets or sits in soggy piles, and the bin strike is still going on. However the snowdrops have made their way up through the lawn at the end of my garden and are in full flower. Daffodils are in bud. Spring is on its way.

Talking of the bin strike, please remember not to put your recycling bins out as they won't be collected until the service becomes available again. Also, please don't over fill your household bins as rubbish can end up all over the pavement and our foxes and rats then have parties in the streets.

Another thing we've spotted are quite a number of elastic bands on the pavements. I presume they are inadvertently dropped by our stalwart delivery people. They are a big danger to our local wildlife as mentioned in our last issue and in the "Honey the Hedgehog" poem included here (see page 5).

The annual 'Great British Spring Clean 2026' will take place between 17<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April. It is now in its eighth year and really helps to encourage us all to keep our streets clean and tidy. During the campaign, members of the public join forces with a range of partners from big business, schools and trusts to community groups and councils. The aim is to get rubbish off the ground, safely collected and recycled where possible. This year we are hoping to beat our 2025 group total of 142 bags.

This a reminder that we now have litter picker kits for schools and community groups. Ruth Davies has written a great 'litter story' which she has kindly donated for inclusion in the packs. If you would like to borrow some equipment, please email [b14litterpickers@gmail.com](mailto:b14litterpickers@gmail.com).

Geoff, who has worked tirelessly as a City Council street cleaner, cleaning the streets of Kings Heath and Moseley and Kings Heath, has retired this month. He is always friendly and helpful, and he has made our streets a much better place to be.

I hope you have a wonderful 2026 and don't forget to let us know of any 'grot spots' or fly tipping you spot. We can then clear them up or report them to the Council or alternatively you can report them via the 'fix my street' app.

Andrea Quigley

P.S. You can find frequent updates on our activities on our Facebook page.



Thank you,  
Geoff. We all  
hope you enjoy  
your retirement.

### Volunteer Hours

- ❖ 7,420 volunteer hours recorded – June 2021 to January 2026
- ❖ An average of 132.5 hours a month

### “Grot Spot” – Ashfield Road, Kings Heath



If you come across a “grot spot” please let us know at [b14litterpickers@gmail.com](mailto:b14litterpickers@gmail.com) with a [what3words](#) reference and we will report it to the Council.

You can also report it directly (and other problems such as fly-tipping on Council land) via [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)



## Rubbish Statistics!

by Roger McFadden

As we look back over the past year, one thing is certain, Kings Heath & Brandwood litter pickers have picked a huge amount of litter.

Look out on Monday mornings and, next to pavement bins, you will see lots of blue bags full of rubbish. These are from our Sunday morning litter pick, waiting for collection by the Council.

This year, we estimate to have collected well over fifteen hundred (yes 1500) bags of rubbish from the streets of Kings Heath and Brandwood.

That's a lot of litter and quite difficult to visualise so perhaps we should use those traditional British units of volume – the bathtub, the family car and the double decker bus..!

So, with careful packing, in 2025, the bags of rubbish we collected would have filled...

400 bathtubs	
or..24 family cars	
or..one double decker bus	

And, if we carry on picking for another 33 years, we will have collected sufficient cans, bottles and wrappers to fill an Olympic size swimming pool..!

## Litter Poetry Competition

Entries to [b14litterpickers@gmail.com](mailto:b14litterpickers@gmail.com) by end April

On the next page you can read our group member Ruth Davies' poem 'Honey the Hedgehog'.

Would you like to have a go at writing a poem to raise awareness of the problems caused by litter or the great work done by litter pickers?

If so, please send it in and Ruth will pick her favourite for inclusion in the next newsletter.



## Honey The Hedgehog

by Ruth Davies

Friends were having a party that day on the family lawn  
They'd all got together to celebrate a baby newly born.  
There was hot food, cold food and plates of sweetie stuff  
And loads and loads of six packs and pop, more than enough.  
Everyone was having fun afternoon and night  
And when they went inside the house the lawn was such a sight.  
There was all kinds of rubbish of food and drinks and pressies  
You could hardly see the grass or the pretty daisies.  
When all was dark and quiet from underneath a shrub  
Honey the hedgehog came shuffling along looking for some grub.  
There were bits of meat and cake and pie and fish and chips well-greased  
Honey sniffed at all of these, she was going to have a feast.  
She found a piece of sausage roll inside a plastic ring.  
She ate it, got entangled, she couldn't move a thing.  
The next day no-one cleared the mess because of all the rain.  
Honey was still stuck in the ring and in a lot of pain.  
In the night Honey was cold, hungry, wet and frightened.  
But then, at last, the sun came up and the grey sky brightened.  
The family came out early morning the rubbish and mess to clear.  
Mum found Honey and shouted out "There's a hedgehog here, oh dear!"  
"It's still alive but very ill, oh what can we do?"  
A neighbour said "I know what, we'll take it to Hedgehog Rescue."  
The Rescue Centre had saved many hedgehogs injured by nasty litter  
And Honey was lucky, she was saved, she's back in the wild and fitter!





## Urban Foxes – by Spencer Lamb

Urban foxes are wild red foxes that have adapted to living in cities. They are not a distinct species from rural foxes. They are highly adaptable and will often dig their dens (called 'earths') under sheds or decking, or they might use holes made by other animals. They might have more than one den in their territory, so the mother can move her cubs if she's been disturbed.

Food supply in an area will determine how many foxes can live there. They are omnivorous scavengers able to eat many types of food. While they eat natural prey like large beetles, other insects, earthworms, small mammals, birds and fallen fruit, over half of an urban fox's diet can consist of human refuse. This diet can sometimes lead to poor health due to high fat/sugar consumption.

The RSPCA advise that if you see foxes frequently in your garden you can assume they have already found a good food supply and there shouldn't be a need for any extra. And that if you decide to leave food out for them, to be cautious and never try to make them tame or hand-feed them.

If you – or your neighbours - don't like having foxes in your garden, the RSPCA suggest ways of humanely deterring them by:

- Removing access to food sources such as bird feeders, fruit and vegetable crops, dustbins and composters, garden fertilisers containing meat, fish, blood or bone products and pets such as rabbits
- Removing places for shelter such as areas of long grass, weeds or overgrown plants, garages, greenhouses and sheds, areas under sheds or decking
- Blocking access using fencing or prickly planting or using animal repellents approved for use with foxes.

It is illegal to poison foxes.

The RSPCA notes that they don't capture and remove healthy foxes as it can harm the fox and often won't solve the problem as, if the environment stays the same, then other foxes will move in in its place.

The RSPCA advise that if you find a sick or injured fox, then don't try to handle it yourself – keep a safe distance. If the fox hasn't moved and you're unsure if it's asleep or dead, then try approaching it slowly and carefully with a long-handled broom, gently touching it with the end of the handle to see if it moves.

The RSPCA advise contacting your local wildlife rehabilitator or nearest wildlife centre for advice about the best way to help a sick or injured fox.



## Newshound's 'Recycling Corner'

### Beautiful Bins!

Newshound has been travelling again and taking more photos of bins. This time in India – bins in classical and modern-styles....



If you come across any “interesting bins” or “bins in interesting places” please send us a photo.

## Litter Jokes & Puns

**Why did the litter bin go to school?**

*It wanted to be litter-ate!*

**Why don't litter bins ever play hide and seek?**

*Because they're rubbish at it!*

**How does a litter bin solve a problem?**

*It throws it away!*

Do you know any? If so, please send them in to us at [b14litterpickers@gmail.com](mailto:b14litterpickers@gmail.com) – but please keep them clean... 😊



### **Our upcoming litter picks\*:**

#### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

**10:00am-11:30am**

#### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

**10:00am-11:00am**

#### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

**10:00am-11:30am**

or,

**join the Friends of Brandwood End  
Cemetery litter pick**

**Meet at the cemetery Lodge**

**Suitable footwear essential (off-road)**

**10:00am-11.30am**

#### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March**

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

**10:00am-11:00am**

#### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Meet Yarningdale Road, B14 6ND

**10:00am-11:30am**

#### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> April**

Meet York Road, B14 7SA

**10:00am-11:00am**

**\*We meet the first Sunday of every  
month on Yarningdale Road and the  
other Sundays on York Road.**

### **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.***

