



CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

A guide to organising your Clean for The Queen clean-up event.

Clean for The Queen is a campaign to clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, which will be officially celebrated in June 2016.

Preparation

First of all, you need to decide which area in your local community you would like to clean-up ready for the Queen's birthday. Have you noticed somewhere that needs a little attention? Well this is your chance to make a difference, whilst bringing your local community together.

You may need permission from the landowner to carry out the clean-up. If you are cleaning up council-owned land, it is particularly important that you gain permission well in advance of the event, as the process for approval can take some time.

Got it all mapped out?

Why not make a sketch map of the area to be tackled. Note where litter or skip collection points are. You might want to identify a 'lost and found' and a 'first aid' point. You can also mark the location of any toilets and any other useful amenities. And if it rains, your volunteers would thank you if you marked an area suitable for them to shelter.

Who wants to get involved?

We are calling on individuals, volunteer groups, local council, businesses and schools to do their bit. You can start now and also take part in our Clean for the Queen weekend on March 4th, 5th and 6th 2015. You could put up Clean for The Queen posters in local shops, supermarkets, libraries, community and leisure centres, schools and community notice boards.

Equipment and further help

You will need a supply of rubbish sacks. Special Clean for The Queen sacks are being provided or you may choose to use your own. Materials such as litter pickers, tabards and gloves are available to buy from our suppliers, Helping Hand and Bizzybee on the Clean for The Queen website. Alternatively, your local council recycling officer may be able to loan you equipment.

Your local council may also be able to help or advise on obtaining protective wear or equipment. It is important to purchase or borrow some sturdy litter pickers to help your volunteers.

Why not check if any of your volunteers can provide their own equipment.

Health and safety

Having chosen a place for your clean-up, visit the site and carry out a full assessment of the risks.

It is important you consider all of the possible risks to you and your volunteers. When assessing the risks, look for the following hazards:

- Unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, other hazardous substances, broken glass, syringes, etc.

- Deep or fast-flowing-water, currents or tides, steep, slippery or unstable banks, sharp rocks, mud holes, derelict buildings, busy roads, electric fences (which are identified by yellow warning signs) etc.

To avoid illness from poor hygiene, all those taking part in the clean-up must:

- Wear heavy duty protective gloves at all time
- Cover any cuts, however minor, with surgical tape or waterproof plasters
- Avoid rubbing the mouth and eyes whilst working
- Wash hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet

Heavy lifting

- Lifting heavy items could be hazardous and volunteers should be discouraged from lifting large or heavy items
- Once large or heavy items have been identified, you should consider whether it is practical for volunteers to remove the given objects or whether it would be best removed by the local council
- If you decide the item can be lifted by volunteers then this should be done at the end of the clean-up through a separate and co-ordinated effort
- It is good practice to tie rope to large objects or use a grapping hook if a large object needs to be lifted

Make sure everyone is aware of potentially dangerous items which they should not pick up.

If dangerous or polluting items are present, contact the Environment Agency on 0800 807 060.

If syringes are spotted at any stage during your clean-up, do not attempt to move them yourself. Make a note of their location and inform your local council.

If you see someone fly-tipping or come across hazardous waste report it to the Environment Agency on their 24 hour hotline 0800 807 060 or alternatively contact the police.

Working with children

It is also important to ensure that children are accompanied by a responsible adult when taking part in a clean-up. In the case of young children we advise no more than four children to one adult.

Before your clean-up, make sure children understand which items are potentially dangerous and should not be picked up. Warn them not to pick up any items they are the least bit unsure about. It is important children are provided with gloves and wear suitable clothing and footwear. With children, do no more than a one hour stint. If only adults are involved, attempt only what is within everyone's capabilities and allow for rest breaks. Two to three hours of litter picking is usually enough unless you're extremely dedicated.

Why not take before and after pictures, so you can see your progress and the results of your hard work?

Contact details

Email: enquiries@cleanforthequeen.co.uk

www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk