

Environmental group wins Big Tidy Up Award 13 February 2015

A community's environmental group picked up one of the top honours at Keep Britain Tidy's Diamond Jubilee Awards Ceremony in Liverpool yesterday.

Friends of Thringstone, Leicestershire, won the Keep Britain Tidy Big Tidy Up Award, sponsored by Waitrose.

Beginning with litter picks, this group has gone even far beyond litter. Whether it's the members carrying out daily litter picks in the village or producing regular newsletters for every household, this group is an asset to Thringstone.

The group works with local landowners, as well as schools, scouts, Air and Army Cadets and businesses. It raises its own funds and motivates the whole community, achieving excellent results for all the members' hard work.

Having collected more than 5,600 bags of litter from the village in ten years, the group was presented with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2011.

The Big Tidy Up is England's biggest-ever litter pick. Since 2008, more than half a million people in more than 25,000 groups have collected nearly 120,000 bags of rubbish.

Friends of Thringstone were among the 11 winners whose achievements were recognised at the ceremony, in the presence of Environment Minister Dan Rogerson MP and Keep Britain Tidy's Ambassador, TV presenter Kirstie Allsopp. The awards celebrated the exceptional contributions that Keep Britain Tidy's partners and supporters have made to the local and global environment.

Phil Barton, Chief Executive of Keep Britain Tidy, said: "Congratulations to the Friends of Thringstone for winning the Keep Britain Tidy Big Tidy Up Award. It is fantastic that the group has dedicated the past decade to keeping their village clean, while working with local businesses and schools and securing sponsorship for equipment. Well done to all those involved."

Environment Minister Dan Rogerson said: "Getting everyone involved in improving the environment and taking pride in their local area is vital if we're going to stop people littering.

"The kind of innovation and creativity shown by the nominees and winners of these awards plays a huge role in inspiring this action and I congratulate them on their efforts to keep our neighbourhoods clean and tidy. I hope their success inspires more initiatives across the country to help manage waste and keep England litter-free."

The runners up in the Big Tidy Up Award category were;

- Rochdale Environmental Action Group

Aiming to improve its local area, this group uses regular litter picks to work with residents and businesses to change attitudes, behaviours and encourage people to have pride in Rochdale.

The award was sponsored by Waitrose, which recently supported Keep Britain Tidy's Jubilee Big Tidy Up, helping communities up and down the country improve their local areas. More than 100 stores took part in tidy-ups alongside schools and community groups.

The full list of winners from the Diamond Jubilee Awards;

The Keep Britain Tidy Diamond Jubilee Award – Queen Elizabeth II High School, Isle of Man
The Diamond Jubilee Partnership Award – Love Essex
The Keep Britain Tidy Network: Campaign of the Year – Westminster City Council
The Keep Britain Tidy Network: Environmental Team of the Year – Liverpool Amey, in
partnership with Liverpool City Council
The Keep Britain Tidy Network: Quality Improvement Award – Luton Borough Council
The Green Flag Award Volunteer of the Year – John Buxton
The Big Tidy Up Award – Friends of Thringstone
The WaterCare Award – Friends of Bottesford Beck
The Eco-Schools Eco-Committee of the Year Award – Queen Elizabeth II High School, Isle of
Man
The Waste less, Live more Award – Respoke
The Women’s Institute Award - Mrs Marian Burton and Mrs Anita Mobbs from Doveridge
Women’s Institute