

We've got it covered! ...with the *Adopt-an-Area* litter-picking scheme

By Steve Sandham

"It's extraordinary what people leave behind in the Park," said Nicky Wood who found a dragon in the field by Two Storm Wood!



The new *Adopt an Area* scheme began in the summer. It was a suggestion made by some of the volunteers during the very successful Richmond Park Spring Clean in March (which we may repeat).

So we've divided the Park into 29 areas and each area has been adopted by Friends of Richmond Park, either individually, in couples or as families. We're so grateful for their amazing generosity in giving up their time to help keep the Park looking in great shape and virtually litter free. The volunteers are working in partnership with The Royal Parks and their teams of full time litter pickers.

With regular feedback from the volunteers, we're able to see just what a difference the additional resource is making to the environment.

Christopher Hedley, covering area 20, has found an assortment of items, including *"metal off a bike or car, food and sweet wrappers, plastic bags, a dog's tennis ball and poo bags."*



PJ Greeves and friends, who cover area 3, have found that the haul can be quite variable: *"The first time, all that I found were two small bits of paper, a chocolate bar wrapper and a cigarette butt."* However, on the next occasion, which was after the summer bank holiday, Peter reported: *"I filled a large Boots carrier bag with bottles, cans, tissues, and chocolate bar wrappers."*

Matt Porter, area 21, says of one of his sessions: *"Collected a full carrier bag of plastic bottles, sandwich bags, dog poo bags, energy sachets (chewed by some animal), wet wipes, a disposable BBQ and general litter. I have to say that I was shocked at people's thoughtlessness but it also endorses your brilliant scheme. Much of the debris was under trees in the little copses but also around the benches on viewpoints."*

If you'd like to get involved, please email litter@frp.org.uk