

NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY
AWDURDOD AFONYDD CENEDLAETHOL

WELSH REGION
RHANBARTH CYMRU



NRA

Guardians of the Water Environment
Diogelwyr Amgylchedd Dŵr

RIVERSIDE LITTER

Results of the 1990 Campaign and
a Strategy for the Future.

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January 1991

RIVERSIDE LITTER
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NRA WELSH REGION : RIVERSIDE LITTER.

Results of the 1990 Campaign and a Strategy for the Future.

Summary

Annually the Region removes about 1500 tonnes of litter from rivers, in addition to 700 supermarket trolleys and 30 cars

During 1990 the Region assisted with 12 specific river clean up projects, which removed a total of 38 lorryloads, 11 skips and 300 bags of litter, as well as 150 trolleys and 3 cars.

The Region has worked closely with the Keep Wales Tidy Campaign to promote a major collaborative initiative to clean up litter along the River Taff.

The problem of abandoned supermarket trolleys and the flooding hazard they may cause has been highlighted and supermarkets asked to exercise greater control over their trolleys.

The Region took the first successful prosecution under the Water Act 1989 for dumping litter.

Health and safety implications of litter clearance work have been considered.

Considerable publicity was given to litter clearance work in which the Region was involved, favourably portraying the work of the NRA.

A future strategy is proposed in which the Region accepts anti-litter policing as part of its day to day operations, but with a more reactive approach to specific litter clearance projects.

A sum of £20K (exclusive of non - Flood Defence manpower) for 1991/92 has been provisionally approved in the WQ regional plan to fund the proposed strategy. This will need to be increased in future years if the Taff Litter project is approved by Welsh Office, and in the light of activity in the coming year.

1. Introduction.

1.1 The NRA resolved nationally that it should run a campaign to highlight the problems of riverside litter, to coincide with the Keep Britain Tidy Group's designation of 1990 as "Tidy Britain Year". Each Region was asked by head office to contribute to the campaign in a variety of ways including :

- i) To highlight the amount of litter routinely removed in the course of Flood Defence activity.
- ii) To carry out a number of high profile litter "clean ups" involving the local community wherever possible.
- iii) To mount a publicity campaign encouraging litter free practices and highlighting littering offences, including those under the Water Act.

Such an active involvement in the litter issue, which is fully justified under the Water Act 1989, is a marked departure from the historical position adopted by the water industry, which took the view that its responsibilities only extended to the removal of litter that caused a flooding hazard. This paper describes the contribution of the Welsh Region to the national campaign, and recommends a regional strategy for dealing with litter in future years.

2. Results of the 1990 Campaign.

2.1 A regional litter working group was formed involving headquarters and divisional staff drawn from the Fisheries and Conservation, Environment and Quality, Flood Defence and Public Relations departments (see Appendix A). The Group acted as the focus for promoting and coordinating the litter campaign, and liaising with head office.

2.2 Litter removed in the course of Flood Defence Activity.

It has been estimated that in the course of its normal Flood Defence activities, the Region annually clears about 1500 tonnes of litter, as well as 30 cars and 700 supermarket trolleys. This is litter that creates a direct threat of flooding through blockage of culverts and obstruction of watercourses.

2.3 Typical of this activity was the clearance in mid May of 10 trolleys, half a shed, sheets of corrugated iron and other rubbish from the rivers Clyne and Nant Y Fendrod. At some particularly vulnerable sites repeated clearances are required on an almost weekly basis. One of the worst sites for such activity is Liswerry Pill, Newport, where a small lorry load of litter and debris is cleared most weeks, amounting to about 150 tonnes each year, including about 40 shopping trolleys. If this work were not carried out, grids and bridges along the reen would become blocked, leading to the flooding of several hundred properties either from land water or tidal leakage.

2.4. Litter "Clean Ups" carried out during the year.

2.4.1 Divisional staff identified a considerable number of sites where litter in or along rivers posed a particular problem. With the cooperation of the Keep Wales Tidy Group the assistance of local community groups was sought to clean up such sites and, equally importantly, encouraged to keep them clean following the initial clearance. Not all sites could be tackled, due to health and safety considerations, lack of local support, and other factors.

2.4.2 A total of twelve clean ups were organised, in addition to the routine clearances carried out by Flood Defence. These clean ups were aimed at all litter in the river and on the banks, not just the material that presented a flooding hazard. Support from the Region varied according to the exact nature of the stretch to be tackled. It included heavy plant to remove large items such as abandoned cars and skips to remove collected litter, as well as gloves, litter pickers and bags to put the litter in. NRA staff were actively involved in a number of instances.

2.4.3 It is estimated that the total litter collected in these events amounted to : 38 lorryloads, 11 skips and 300 bags of litter, as well as 3 cars and over 150 trolleys, amounting to about 200 tonnes of litter in all. These clearances are summarised in table 1.

2.5. River Taff Litter Project.

2.5.1 Following considerable interest in an evaluation of the Taff litter problem carried out in 1989 by the S.E Environmental Appraisal Unit, a meeting was held with the Keep Wales Tidy Campaign to consider the possibility of a coordinated campaign involving a range of local authorities and other agencies. As a result of the initial meeting, KWTC agreed to adopt the Taff Litter Project as a "flagship" project for their "Clean 90s" campaign.

2.5.2 KWTC in liaison with the NRA, have drawn up a structured programme designed to initially quantify the work involved in such a clean up, and then actually carry out the work. It is hoped that the programme would attract 75% Urban Aid grant from Welsh Office. The Region has agreed to contribute £7.5K to the initial study, which will enable the bid to Welsh Office to be finalised. Other agencies that have been approached for funding are :

Cynon Valley B.C.
Rhondda B.C.
Merthyr Tydfil B.C.
Taff Ely B.C.
Cardiff City Council
South Glamorgan C.C.
Mid Glamorgan C.C.

Welsh Development Agency
UK 2000 Cymru
Cardiff Bay D.C.
Welsh Water PLC.

A decision as to whether to proceed with this project will be taken in February 1991, when responses from all agencies have been received.

2.6 Shopping Trolleys.

2.6.1 A noticeable feature of virtually all river litter clearances has been the number of shopping trolleys that are abandoned in rivers and streams. Up to 50 trolleys were retrieved from single sites, and as reported in 2.1 above, about 700 are retrieved across the region annually. Trolleys are of particular concern to the Flood Defence Department as they are of a size that can easily block culverts, and in the open channel, readily collect other debris to form a substantial impediment to flows. In view of this problem, a number of initiatives were taken to try and improve control over trolleys by supermarkets.

2.6.2. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Section 99) provides local authorities discretionary powers to introduce a "pound" system for trolleys, whereby they may impound all stray trolleys, and release them to the supermarkets concerned on payment of a fee. Where there is a particular problem with abandoned trolleys, a letter has been sent to the relevant District Councils Chief Executive urging that they introduce such a system.

2.6.3 In view of the fact that Tesco trolleys featured highly in those removed from rivers, a letter was sent to Tesco's Regional Manager asking that they introduce a system of positive incentives (such as the deposit system in operation at some locations) to encourage shoppers to return trolleys, .

2.6.4 Historically, there has been a persistent problem of abandoned trolleys in the Nant Yr Aber, Caerphilly, with up to 50 trolleys being removed in a year from a location where they pose a particular flooding hazard. The Nant yr Aber runs alongside a supermarket site that has changed hands repeatedly in recent years, and has recently been taken over by Asda. To highlight the problems caused at this particular location as well as the general nuisance caused by abandoned trolleys, a lorryload of 40 trolleys retrieved from this site was handed back to Asda by the Regional Board Member in January 1991, with a request that the store improves their security. Asda co-operated fully with this initiative, and are currently considering our request to introduce a deposit system.

2.7 Legal Aspects.

2.7.1. Increased awareness of the powers available to the NRA has been promoted amongst pollution control and other staff. Welsh Region became the first to bring a successful prosecution of a litter offence under the 1989 Water Act, when it took action against someone found dumping roofing felt into the river Rhondda

2.8 Health and Safety.

2.8.1 The Health and Safety implications for both staff and volunteers working on the riverbank were a matter of continual concern. Specific guidance was provided by national and regional Safety Officers in relation to this, and the stance adopted that the NRA was only to assist in clean ups organised by a third party (e.g. local community group). However, this effectively precluded the Region from actively promoting clean-ups, as it was felt that to actively encourage people to clean up rivers, but then refuse to accept any responsibility for any resulting accidents was unacceptable. On one occasion special insurance cover was taken out

to overcome residents' quite reasonable fears. Such cover has now been included in the Region's standard insurance policy.

2.9 Publicity.

2.9.1 The litter campaign run by the Region was undoubtedly a success in terms of attracting press coverage of the NRA's activities and all clearances resulted in articles in at least the local press. The regional press (Western Mail) covered clearances on a number of occasions, and the initial launch of the campaign received TV coverage. A sample of press cuttings is included in appendix B. A double page article on the campaign was carried in "Glas Y Dorlan" and a number of Welsh litter initiatives featured in "Water Guardians".

2.9.2 NRA certificates were printed and generally provided to individuals and organisations who took part in litter clearances, though Keep Wales Tidy and local authorities certificates were presented on occasions.

2.10 Resource Implications.

2.10.1 Material requirements to run the campaign were found to be relatively modest, as in most cases a skip or lorry to take away collected rubbish was provided at no charge by the local authority, and no charge was made for disposal onto approved tips. Where debris was removed that constituted a flooding hazard this was transported away by the Flood Defence Dept. The cost of providing litter bags, gloves and litter pickers for use by volunteer groups amounted to about £1000.

2.10.2 The staff time involved in arranging and encouraging voluntary groups to undertake clearances was considerable, and was certainly a limiting factor in the number of clearances undertaken. Significantly, many of the clearances that eventually took place arose not from the direct efforts of NRA personnel, but from initiatives taken independently by other organisations who subsequently approached the NRA for assistance. The need for NRA staff to be involved on the actual day of the clearance (which was generally at weekends) was also a constraint. The relatively small number of staff involved in the work limited the number of times they could reasonably be expected to work over weekends, bearing in mind that such staff are also involved in duty rotas for pollution control work, etc. Staff costs arising out of the litter campaign were not separately costed, and were absorbed by the divisions concerned.

2.10.3. At a number of sites the NRA provided a landrover and trailer to take bags of litter and large items of debris (e.g. trolleys, mattresses) from the riverbank to the collection skip/lorry. The nature of much of the material collected makes transport by hand over even relatively short distances difficult, dangerous and time consuming. No separate identification of the resulting cost to the NRA was made, but it is unlikely to be significant.

3. Future Strategy in relation to Litter.

In the light of experience gained from the 1990 campaign, the following strategy is proposed for the Regions future involvement in riverine litter clearance.

3.1 General.

3.1.1 There should be a general acceptance amongst all functions that the NRA has a role to play in the clearance of litter from rivers and the prevention of future littering. The view that anything other than the removal of flooding hazards is beyond the Authority's remit should be discouraged.

3.1.2 Each Divisional Scientist should nominate a senior officer with specific responsibility for litter issues. Though the issue has links with both pollution control and conservation/ recreation functions, it is suggested that prime responsibility is given to the Pollution Control Manager, in view of the legal similarities to pollution incidents and the close links with Local Authorities. However, all staff, particularly field staff, should be responsible for reporting cases of littering, particularly persistent dumping, in the same way that pollutions or illegal discharges are reported.

3.1.3 A general note should be prepared and circulated to all relevant staff outlining the duties of the NRA in respect of litter, the powers it has towards offenders, and the general policy of the Region towards the litter problem.

3.2 Litter removed in the course of Flood Defence Activity.

3.2.1 Wherever significant quantities of litter and debris are removed for flood defence purposes, the opportunity should be taken to highlight the problems that such litter causes the NRA, and obtain appropriate publicity for the work carried out. Flood Defence should maintain a record of the quantities of litter removed (no. of trolleys, no. of lorryloads, total tonnage etc.), for use in general publicity material and information packs.

3.2.2 If Flood Defence staff are working on a stretch of river, they should be encouraged to remove major items of litter even if they do not pose a direct problem in Flood Defence terms. As such work cannot be charged against Flood Defence precepts, resources should be provided from GIA for this purpose.

3.3 Organisation and support of Litter Clearances

3.3.1 The Region should adopt a generally reactive role in relation to organised clean ups of selected stretches of river. NRA staff should concentrate on assisting with clearances organised by others, rather than actively initiating and organising such clearances themselves.

3.3.2 Each division should build up a specific reserve of equipment that is available to groups who approach it for assistance with litter clearances. Such equipment should include :
Forks, ropes and litter grabbers to remove litter,
Bin-bags in which to collect material,
Gloves and overalls (as supplied to FD operatives).

3.3.3 Divisions should also budget for :

- Staff time, including overtime, for involvement in such clearances.
- The provision of a Landrover and trailer where appropriate.
- Payment for lorries or skips to remove litter collected, where this is not forthcoming from the Local Authority.

It is anticipated that some of the above can be accommodated within existing resources, however, a bid for an additional £10K has been included in the regional plan to meet additional demands.

3.4 River Taff Litter Project

3.4.1 The Region should continue to support the Taff Litter Project as a model for collaborative works with local authorities and other agencies. Assuming that phase 1 of the project proceeds successfully, the NRA should support (as one of several partners) the full programme of works entailed in phase 2, providing that Welsh Office Urban Aid is available. Likely costs to the NRA are in the region of £100 K over three years, commencing in early 1992. An appropriate sum was included in the 91/92 regional plan, which will need to be increased in subsequent years.

3.5 Shopping Trolleys

3.5.1 The Region should continue to highlight the problems caused by abandoned trolleys and press for greater control over them. Where appropriate further trolley hand overs should be carried out to emphasize specific problem sites.

3.5.2 Flood Defence should maintain records of the number of trolleys retrieved in the course of their duties.

3.6 Legal Aspects

3.6.1 Specific guidance for field staff should be prepared by the Legal Dept. on the procedures and evidential requirements necessary to bring about prosecutions under S. 107 of the Water Act 1989 for depositing "solid waste matter" in rivers.

3.7 Health and Safety

3.7.1 The Region should continue to make health and safety the prime consideration when considering whether to support a proposed litter clearance, whether it will involve members of the public or not.

3.7.2 The checklist for NRA officers involved in litter clearances, drawn up for the 1990 campaign, (Appendix C) should be re-issued in a format suitable for all future clearances.

3.7.3 The advisory leaflet developed during 1990 (Appendix D) should be distributed to everyone involved in clearances supported by the Region.

3.8 Publicity.

3.8.1 It is recognised that litter clearances and related activities provide an excellent opportunity for good PR material. This potential should continue to be exploited, though not regarded as the prime motive for such clearances. The PR Dept. should continue to arrange photographic and press coverage as appropriate for each event.

Richard Howell, Conservation & Recreation Officer
28th January 1990
FC/AW/7

Table 1

RIVER LITTER CLEARANCES 1990

REP.	DATE	RIVER/SITE	DIVISION	GROUPS INVOLVED	LITTER REMOVED
1	24th March	A. Llynfi Caerau	S.W.	Maesteg Comm. Council	15 lorry loads, inc settee, mattresses, dining chairs
2	24th May	A. Ely, Fairwater, Cardiff	S.E.	Mill Road Junior School	3 cars
3	7th July	Silver Brook, Beddau	S.E.	Bryncelynog Comp. School	Estimated 2 skips, including shopping trolleys and tractors tyres
4	28th July	A. Afan, Port Talbot	S.W.	Port Talbot F.O.E.	2 skips including 50 shopping trolleys, 3 chairs, 2 prams
5	29th July	A. Seiont, Caernarfon	N	Local Scouts, Cubs & Guides Keep Wales Tidy	2 skips, 150 bags of litter
6	29th July	Foreshore, Beaumaris	N	Local Scouts, Cubs & Guides Keep Wales Tidy	10 bags of litter
7	29th July	A. Conwy, Conwy	N	Local Scouts, Cubs & Guides Keep Wales Tidy	60 bags of litter & other debris
8	29th July	Foreshore, Flint	N	Local Scouts & Helpers. Keep Wales Tidy	70 bags of litter
9	16th Sept.	Widemarsh Brook, Hereford	S.E.	WATCH, BCTV, City Church Hereford C.C.	3 skips including mattresses, plastic sheets, oil drums, tyres etc.
10	21st Sept.	Dee, Chester	N	Chester C.C.	50-60 tonnes inc. 4 shopping trolleys & other debris
11	6th Nov.	Nant yr Aber	S.E.		
12	1st Dec.	Gwenfro, Wrexham	N	Wrexham Maelor B.C. Local Community Keep Wales Tidy	8-10 tonnes (2 skips & lorry loads) including 45 shopping trolleys.

Appendix A.

Membership of the Litter Working Group

Chairman	R H Howell	Conservation & Recreation Officer St Mellons
	A Abrams	Area Flood Defence Manager, Cilfynydd
	B E Jones	Resources Officer, Caernarfon
	D Langley	Area Pollution Control Officer, Swansea
	R Mackay	Public Relations Officer, St Mellons
	D Williams	Divisional Pollution Control Officer, St Mellons



John Stoner, NRA Welsh regional director with pupils of Millbank Primary School who wrote to the authority asking them to help clear the stretch of the River Ely in the background

A PICTURESQUE RIVER walk has been returned to its former glory — thanks to the efforts of a group of Cardiff schoolchildren.

Two rusting cars dumped in the River Ely, near Fairwater, were spotted by Millbank Primary School pupils when they were working on an environmental studies project for teacher Mrs Barbara Ingram.

The fourth-year children were so incensed by the eyesore they each wrote a letter to the National Rivers Authority to complain.

And yesterday they were all invited to watch the NRA's flood defence department heave the cars out of the river using a digging vehicle.

Pollution fear

"We're glad they've taken the cars away because they were dangerous," said 10-year-old James Cuff, of Heol Mustan. "Someone could have climbed inside and become trapped."

Katie McCormack, aged 11, of Wroughton Place, was worried the engine oil had polluted the river.

Dr John Stoner the NRA's Welsh regional director explained the authority often removed industrial debris, dumped cars and shopping trolleys from rivers where they could cause culvert blockages and flooding.

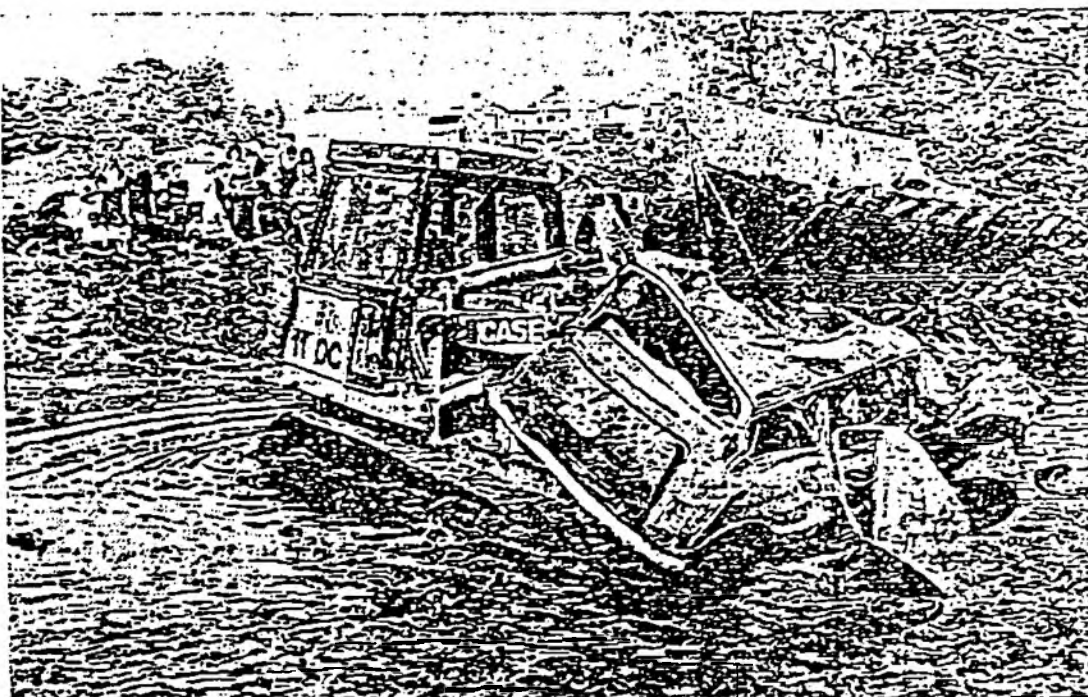
Blackspots

He said if schools and other groups contacted the NRA about blackspots his flood service department would come

to clear the river, but said general rubbish clearance was not part of their duties.

Other blackspot areas identified for action included the Nant-y-Aber in Coerphilly, the

Pupils help clean up junkyard river



Pupils watch as NRA staff remove a wrecked car from the River Ely

River Rhymney in Llanrunney and Liswerry Pill in Liswerry, Newport.

"If community groups are prepared to undertake litter collection, we will be glad to help by lifting heavier debris," Dr Stoner said.

LOCAL GENERAL

War on river litter louts is declared

WAR has been declared on litter louts in South Wales who are desecrating local rivers by dumping tonnes of rubbish in the water and along the banks every year.

Each year in Wales the National Rivers' Authority clears no less than 1,500 tonnes of rubbish, a minimum of 30 car wrecks and as many as 700 super-market trolleys from the Principality's rivers.

"Some people seem to regard rivers as purpose-built disposal units into which garden and household rubbish will simply disappear," said an NRA Wales spokesman.

Washed

"In reality rubbish just accumulates on the river bank or is washed downstream only to cause an eyesore elsewhere."

As this is Tidy Britain Year, the NRA has mounted a campaign to highlight the problems and extent of litter along Welsh rivers and streams.

As part of the war on litter, the NRA Welsh region has laid on equipment and help for volunteer groups

By Jonathan Isaacs

from its area to help clear up their local stretches of river.

One of the biggest problems has been the River Afan which flows down the Afan Valley and through Port Talbot town centre and Aberavon out to sea.

In July volunteers collected two skip-loads of refuse from the river, including 50 shopping trolleys, three chairs, two prams and a bike. Dumped wrecks of cars have also been a particular problem in the upper Afan Valley stretches of the river.

Flooding

A member of the NRA's pollution control staff, Rob Carr, said: "The event was extremely successful and I hope we'll see less dumping here in future."

"The quality of the Afan has improved greatly in recent years to the extent

that salmon are running up it once more, so it deserves a little respect from the community."

As well as looking unsightly the rubbish could also result in flooding through culverts becoming blocked and watercourses obstructed.

Area flood defence controller, Mr Colin Green, says that if this work was not carried out grids, bridges and tidal flaps would soon become blocked.

"This would threaten several hundred properties with flooding either from river water or tidal leakage," said Mr Green.



CLEANING-up operations under way on the River Dulais near Aberdulais Falls in Neath during March this year.

MANAGEMENT/REGIONAL

Clean-up time for river

PORT Talbot's River Afan has been getting a clean-up from local groups.

About 20 volunteers took part in the operation from Halfpenny Bridge to the Weir.

Members were from the Keep Port Talbot Tidy Campaign, the National Rivers Association, Port Talbot Friends of the Earth and Port Talbot Angling Society.

The action was taken as part of the 1990 Tidy Britain year Coastline Week.

A spokesman said they had planned to clean up the river three weeks ago, but heavy rain had forced them to defer it.

The 600-metre stretch of the river Afan was cleared using skips and trolleys, provided by the borough council.



JILL DYKSMAN and Robert Carr, technical assistants with the NRA, remove rubbish from Afan River at Port Talbot in a clean-up organised by Port Talbot Friends of the Earth.

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Charity night

ing duo Back To Back appear at Watstown, Church Street, to raise money for cerebral palsy sufferer k Gentio Hungary for tment.

Il-tax debate

community charge is ne agenda for Pontyp-s Labour club meeting evening at the AUE ling, Sards Road.

lios stolen

t suit, four radios and portable stereos have stolen from J C Tim-Bridge Road, Llan-n.

ter pottery

ren can make and an Easter animal out lay at Llantrisant House. Booking is mended for the £2 on with potter Janet y on April 7 or 8.

p break-in

osed shop in Oxford t, Mountain Ash, was d and £500 stolen.

donation

Valley's Women's ily receive a £2,000 mas from the penny

Clean river brings warning to dumpers

THE NATIONAL Rivers Authority has issued a clean-up warning to people living near culverts — rubbish could seriously damage your home.

The warning comes after the NRA spent two weeks cleaning culverts — and took away 15 lorryloads of rubbish, including a settee and dining chairs, from just one 500 metre stretch of river.

And NRA spokesperson Rod Mackay said if the larger items collected, damming a culvert mouth, water would overflow, often into people's houses.

The NRA has now appealed to people living in Caerau in the Llynfi Valley, where the big clean up took place, to keep a careful eye on the riverbank.

And Mr Mackay said if anyone was willing to identify illegal dumpers, they should contact the NRA immediately.

"It's not just unsightly, it can present a danger to homes," Mr Mackay said.

"Where this stretch of the river and the culvert is, some houses are very low lying and could easily be prone to floods."

And though the heavy rain in the early part of the year did not affect the Caerau area as much as many places, Mr Mackay said if a careful eye was not kept on the dumping blackspot, residents might not be so lucky next

"We have cleared all the debris, but who can guarantee something large won't be thrown there to block the culvert the day before a downpour?" he said.

Now Maesteg Community Council, who approached the NRA to do the clean-up, are calling for residents throughout the borough to keep the area tidy.

Bill Thomas, who chairs the council, said the valley was looking wonderful right now.

But the problem must be addressed further afield than Caerau since unfortunately dumpers came from miles around, he said.

Mr Thomas hoped people would be so proud of the new clean stretch, they would take extra care to make sure it was not overrun by litter.

A stretch of river cleaned in Maesteg itself had stayed pristine for a year since a grand tidy up, and he hoped Caerau would be the same.

Now the community council is planning a scheme in the village for schoolchildren to help plant trees and flowers.

"It's a bit too late for this year now, but next spring we're hoping to be much greener.

"We've already got bottle banks, can banks and paper banks and it's surprising how much we've collected in them.

"It will be beautiful to have the valley reclaimed and looking as beautiful as it must have before the mines came," Mr Thomas



CLEAN CAMPAIGN . . . Community Councillors Mr Bill Thomas, David Jahn, D J O'Gorman and Anne O'Gorman watch the National Rivers Authority flood

NRA join battle to clean up rivers of Wales

By DAVID VICKERMAN

AN ABANDONED Mini lies in the River Ely - one of the largest items of junk and litter polluting the rivers of Wales.

In West Wales alone, 150 shopping trolleys are being removed from small rivers every year, while 15 lorryloads of rubbish were recently recovered from one 500-metre stretch of the River Llynfi in South Wales.

Now the National Rivers Authority has joined the battle to clean up the waterways and riverbanks of Wales.

Today an NRA team will supervise the removal of the old Mini from the Ely at Fairwater, with children from the nearby Millbank Primary School watching the winching operation.

The youngsters reported the car to the NRA while they were working on a nature project along the Ely.

The NRA is providing help and equipment for voluntary groups to tackle at least ten blackspots in Wales and the marches as part of a national campaign to aid Tidy Britain Year.

The blackspot areas already identified for possible action are at Nant-yr-Aber, Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan; River Rhymney, Llanrumney, Cardiff; Liswerry Pill, Liswerry, Newport, Gwent; River Lleidi, Llanelli, Dyfed; River Afan, West Glamorgan; and the upper reaches of the River Tawe in West Glamorgan.

Volunteers wanted for river clean-up

by ANDREW FORGRAVE

RESIDENTS are being asked to roll up their sleeves to help to clean-up a river which runs through their estate.

After years of complaints a scheme has been launched to clean-up the River Gwenfro, which flows through Queen's Park, Wrexham.

Wrexham Maelor Council, together with the National Rivers Authority, has decided to get rid of the rubbish once and for all.

Over the years, rubbish has been dumped in the River Gwenfro, and fed-up residents have complained that it was becoming a health hazard.

Council and NRA work-

ers will wade into the most inaccessible parts of the river, but they are anxious that the scheme becomes a combined effort.

Volunteers are being asked to meet in the car park at the Queensway Sports Centre on Saturday at 10.30am.

Following a briefing, the volunteers will be divided into teams and allocated sections of river bank.

Mr Bryan Jones, the NRA's area resource officer, said the scheme was part of a campaign to clean-up the nation's rivers.

He said: "We are being drawn together by genuine concern for the environment, a wish to see our rivers clear of litter for the fish and flowing freely into the sea."

Girls form a clean stream team

AN ALL-GIRL group of schoolchildren have formed an anti-pollution team to save a stream from becoming a permanent rubbish tip.

The second year pupils from Brynedyddog Comprehensive, Biddaw, are planning to clean-up Silverbrook, a once-pretty stream which runs through Central Park, which has become crisscrossed with discarded supermarket trolleys and domestic debris.

They were driven into action by borough council plans to construct a new children's play area for the under sevens immediately adjacent to the stream.

The Silverbrook team have already circulated some 500 STOP THE DROP leaflets advertising a public meeting at the Llaniwdd Fardre Sports Centre on Monday July 2 at 7.30pm, with the aim of heightening the community's awareness of the problem.

The leaflet also takes the form of a questionnaire which, when collected and the results analysed, will hopefully shed some light on the reasons behind the situation and provide a basis for finding a solution.

A Silverbrook clean-up day has been planned for Sunday July 8 at 3pm, when all volunteers will be welcomed.

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The action was taken as part of the 1990 Tidy Britain year Coastline Week.

A spokesman said they had planned to clean up the river three weeks ago, but heavy rain had forced them to defer it.

The 600-metre stretch of the river Afan was cleared using skips and trolleys, provided by the borough council.

THE 1st Beaumaris Sea Scouts have cleared Beaumaris beach of litter as their contribution to Keep Britain Tidy Year.

They braved Arctic conditions to collect up all the litter left behind after the Guy Fawkes bonfire in November.

The Scouts had helped with the catering at the bonfire, but

were later appalled to see how much litter was left behind by spectators at the event.

With the help of the National Rivers Authority they cleared the beach of cans and general rubbish, filling up many bags.

Beach combed

A spokesman for the NRA said afterwards, "We are very pleased to be able to help voluntary groups like this to clear up the environment and we are very happy with the excellent job the Scouts have done."

War on river litter louts is declared

WAR has been declared on litter louts in South Wales who are dr local rivers by dumping tonnes of rubbish in the water and also every year.

Each year in Wales the National Rivers' Authority clears no less than 1,500 tonnes of rubbish, a minimum of 30 car wrecks and as many as 700 super-market trolleys from the Principality's rivers.

"Some people seem to regard rivers as purpose-built disposal units into which garden and household rubbish will simply disappear," said an NRA Wales spokesman.

Washed

"In reality rubbish accumulates on bank or is washed into stream only to be elsewhere.

As
Year

By Jonathan Isaacs

from its area to help clear their local stretches of river.

One of the bigger lems has been the River which flows down the Valley and Talbot Abera

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CLEANING-up operations under way on the River Dulais near Aberdulais Falls in Neath during March this year.

Post 26.11.90

Parents prepare 'Swat' away to clear river rubbish

RESIDENTS are taking litter problems into their own hands by setting up "Swat" teams with the help of the National Rivers Authority and Wrexham Maelor Borough Council.

Volunteers are to take part in a day-long clean-up of the Gwenfro, Wrexham, one of the untidiest rivers in Wales.

With NRA and council staff, they will pull tons of debris from the river.

Bryan Jones, NRA resources officer, said the plan was part of a national scheme to back up communities staff, materials and transport in tackling the problem of litter in rivers.

By David Jones
Daily Post

Girls form a clean stream team

A group of schoolchildren have formed an anti-litter team from becoming a permanent rubbish clearing force.

Last year work clear Gwenfro and remove The respons take for the river.

Trolleys hoo in river clean-up. FIFTY shopping trolleys, prams, bikes and chairs were recovered from a Welsh river during a two day clean-up. The debris was fished from the River Afan at Port Talbot by the Earth Authority (NRA) and volunteers.



*Awdurdod Afonydd Cenedlaethol
Rhanbarth Cymru*

*National Rivers Authority
Welsh Region*

GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEER LITTERGROUPS

This note is intended to remind the organisers and for those taking part in the River Litter Campaign of the simple hints that will assist you in achieving the objective safely.

- 1]. The area that you have agreed to pick litter over will already have been inspected by an officer of the N.R.A. and hazards pointed out to your team leader
- 2]. Water Hazards
Take care not to fall into water, be particularly careful to avoid going near weirs, sluice or any steep sided channels. If the site conditions look hazardous they probably are, stay away.
- 3]. Hygiene
Avoid picking anything up with your bare hands. If you are hand picking, gloves should be worn. Cover any cuts or abrasions with a waterproof plaster before you start work. Wash hands after work, baby wipes, swarfega or water brought from home should be used. A First Aid Kit should be available from the team leader, report to them if you receive a cut or a scratch.
- 4]. Illness
Any illness, but particularly a 'flu like' or gastro intestinal illness should be reported to your G.P. for early treatment.
- 5]. Weights
Do not attempt to lift anything heavy, even normally fairly light weight objects, assume tremendous weights when they are wet or half stuck in mud. Report the object to the leader.
- 6]. Algae Scum
Algae, if it is present may look like green paint. Avoid skin contact with it and the water close to it.

Aelod Rhanbarthol o'r Bwrdd
Yr Athro Ron Edwards
Rheolwr Rhanbarth Cyffredinol
Dr John Stoner
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7].

Insurance

The N.R.A. in supporting your project holds no responsibility for its management.

Your group must consider the necessity of providing Insurance cover for group members whilst engaged on this type of scheme.

Make sure you have a satisfactory, even enjoyable day and remember,

Keep away from deep water

Wear gloves if you hand pick

Wash your hands after work

Do not lift anything that is going to be heavy.

S.R.Knowles

Training & Safety Officer

P/SRK/DJB.

NRA WELSH REGION
LITTER CLEARANCE CAMPAIGN

Site: River:
NRA responsible Officer: Division
Group(s) involved:
Date of Clearance:

NRA Actions

	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Date</u>
i) Site inspected.		
ii) Site defined, hazards and no-go areas identified.		
iii) Site map and written brief on limits of size, hazards and no-go areas given to Group leader (attach copy).		
iv) Safety handouts provided.		
v) Group leader advised of need to arrange their own first aid kit, overalls and other equipment, except as identified in vi) below.		
vi) Are NRA litter pickers, gloves or bin bags required. Have these been ordered from St. Mellons (Conservation & Recreation Officer).		
vii) Is NRA assistance with transport and disposal of litter required? Has this been arranged and confirmed.		
viii) Is Flood Defence involvement required: Liaise with relevant area FDM.-		
ix) Has the Group Leader arranged access to the river and parking for the group?		
x) Arrange for the EAU to undertake and before and after survey.		
xi) Arrange for before and after photos to be taken.		
xii) Inform PR at St. Mellons of date and details.		
xiii) Inform Conservation & Recreation Officer of date and details		

Admin. Use Only

Project No:
P.R.:

Photos:
H.Q.: