

# E-A-S-I

## Earley Adopt-a-Street Initiative

### Autumn 2024 Newsletter

#### Earley's Litter and Recycling Group

Welcome to EASI's Autumn 2024 Newsletter. This edition of the EASI Newsletter includes the good news of a new arrangement with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to cover EASI litter pickers for Third Party Public Liability Insurance, on a similar basis as other litter-picking volunteer groups in the area. This will benefit EASI volunteers, requiring them to agree for their name and address to be included on the list forwarded to WBC for insurance purposes. More information on this is given below. We also include advice from Wokingham Borough Council on keeping your recycling dry, and news on the successful opening of Earley's Repair Café.

#### Litter Picking News

##### Volunteers

The number of EASI volunteers currently stands at 326 litter pickers. Thank you to those who have joined as a new volunteer and to those who have taken on additional streets. There are, however, several streets that do not have a volunteer picking them. If you are able to take on additional streets, know anyone who would be willing to take them on, to share streets or work as a group, please get in touch at [esalittergroup@gmail.com](mailto:esalittergroup@gmail.com)

##### EASI Guidelines

We have updated our litter picking guidelines for volunteers and the latest version accompanies this newsletter.

##### Public Liability Insurance Cover

As mentioned above, we are delighted to inform you that the committee has managed to arrange third party public liability insurance for our volunteers through Wokingham Borough Council. This insurance will provide you with cover in the unlikely event of you causing damage or injury to a third party whilst out litter picking as an EASI volunteer. Having insurance is general practice for groups like ours, many of which have public liability insurance provided by their council. We hope you agree that this is very good news indeed.

In order to provide cover, the Council's insurers require the names and addresses of all of our litter pickers, and you should already have received an email from us asking you to provide your consent to this – if you have not seen the email, please check your spam folder or get in touch with us at [esalittergroup@gmail.com](mailto:esalittergroup@gmail.com)

All EASI volunteers need to provide this consent in order to get insurance protection, to comply with data protection regulations (GDPR). The email provides a bit more detail, but in simple terms we need you to respond to EASI's email saying, "I agree" and to give us the names and addresses of any additional litter pickers who pick with you. We are keen to progress this swiftly so that we can get the cover in place.

Of course, if you do not wish to provide your consent you can let us know and we will remove your details from our database on the basis that you would no longer be an EASI volunteer. However, we hope that you will agree that this is a very positive step forward in protecting our volunteers.

##### Timely Find

One of our volunteers, whilst on a recent litter-pick along Beech Lane found a FitBit-style watch on the pavement. Amazingly, within around 10 minutes of a message being posted on Facebook seeking the owner, the watch was claimed. A timely find and a timely recovery of a timepiece!



## Recycling and Waste Collection News

Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC's) October Rubbish and Recycling News includes guidance on keeping your recycling dry, as this is important in making sure recycling efforts aren't wasted.

We've had a lot of rain recently, and if paper or cardboard gets wet, WBC has to dispose of it as rubbish. Here are WBC's tips to help:

- **Seal your green bags tightly:** don't leave your green bags open when you put them out
- **Close bin lids:** if you live in a flat and use a bin store, ensure the lids of the recycling bins are closed, especially if they're out in the open
- **Maximize space:** if you're struggling to seal your green bags or close the bin lids, wash and squash the contents to make the best use of space
- **Get an extra green bag:** if your green bags are often too full to be sealed, pick up a green bag free of charge from our collection hubs



By recycling as much as we can, we can play a part in reducing our carbon emissions and saving money. The following link provides information on the changes WBC has made to waste collection this summer:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-collection/waste-collection-changes-summer>



**The Earley Repair Café** opened its doors to the public for the first time on Sunday 13th October. The first session saw 47 items come through the door including 16 electrical items, 10 pieces of clothing, 4 bikes, 3 soft toys, 2 weighing scales and one shoe! Earley Town Council's (ETC's) team of volunteers worked to repair as many of these items as they could, and also offered advice to customers on the items which were a little harder to fix.

Earley Repair Café takes place on the second Sunday of the month between 10am and 1pm at Centrepoint Community Centre (next to Lower Earley Library on Chalfont Close). No booking is required, please just drop in. Some of the volunteers are seen here with the opening ceremony cake. Information taken from ETC's Website at found at: <https://www.earley-tc.gov.uk/earley-repair-cafe/>

### Recycling Directory and Contacting EASI



The EASI Recycling database can be found on the **Earley Environment Group Website** under 'Environment' and 'Recycling in Earley – an updated guide'. The link is:

<http://www.earleyenvironmentalgroup.co.uk/Environment/NewRecyclingInEarley.asp>

The **EASI Committee members** are Chris Bassett, Tracy Collins, Bob Collis, Brian Hackett, Grahame Hawker, Brenda Hill, Stephen Kerry and Richard Tredgett. Contact us on EASI's **Email** address: [easilittergroup@gmail.com](mailto:easilittergroup@gmail.com), or visit the EASI **Facebook Page** 'EASI Litter Pickers – Earley'. Information about waste recycling and reporting substantial amounts of dumped rubbish or fly-tipping can be found, as follows:

- **general information** about rubbish and recycling at <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/>
- **report fly-tipping** <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-collection/fly-tipping> the 'Fix-My-Street' App which can also be used to report excessive litter, fly-tipping, etc. <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>