

CLEAN UP IS FAR FROM OVER

In this weeks ESG newsletter we would like to continue writing about the work undertaken in the name of Clean up the World because it is ongoing. After the very busy and successful weekend we have made no secret about our litter problem being far from over. Indeed, it's important that we keep these issues alive by focusing on them through these newsletters so that we can remind everyone of how severe Gibraltar's rubbish problem actually is and that it must be tackled.

So, in this issue we'd like to discuss the ongoing problems in Gibraltar as well as the very positive responses from the younger generation to the series of Clean up presentations done by the ESG team last week. Certificates were formally handed and power point presentations given to members of our youth Clubs, namely Plater and Dolphin, as well as to the Duke of Edinburgh and St John's Cadets. Students from Westside who took part in a first ever Green Watch project, which involved discussion, observation, recording as well as cleaning the environment, were also given a power point presentation of the many environmental projects which took place over the Clean up weekend.

It is clear from the type and volume of rubbish witnessed by all volunteers that the scale of our problem is quite daunting. Nevertheless, a community effort such as the ESG's Clean up which involved and continues to involve so many people from all ages and interests is a big step in the right direction towards finding solutions.

For those of you who may not know, the ESG is now in close contact with various Mediterranean countries who wish to forge links with Gibraltar and exchange information about the clean ups done in our own home towns. When you consider that this includes countries like Palestine, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Serbia, Israel, and many others, you can begin to see that as well as drawing together people from different backgrounds in Gibraltar, the clean up is also pulling together countries which are ordinarily at odds with one another or are living with tremendous strife and upheaval.

The ESG looks ahead at how it can help make a difference at a local level by persisting in raising the profile of this simple yet damaging environmental problem and hopes to meet with the Minister for the Environment and relevant agencies and services to discuss the lessons learnt after this last clean up.

On a broader canvas, we look forward to forging closer links with like minded people who care about making our world cleaner, brighter and better and who don't mind getting their hands dirty doing so! Please watch this space for news of upcoming projects with our Mediterranean partners to see how you can take part. Everyone will be made welcome.

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