

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

www.litterpreventionprogram.com

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Robot takes to street

Wokingham beat out other UK towns to win use of a NASA robotics-driven, litter-picking robot named Wall-e after the Disney cartoon. Designed at University of Reading, backed by town council and launched to coincide with Britain's new one-pound coin, Wall-e will pick up litter in town, fueled by people's £1 deposits. A camera was put in the robot to deter vandals after Wall-e was attacked during the trial period.

Wall-e is the name of Wokingham's adorable new, litter-picking robot, above, a project steered by [Wokingham Litter Heroes](#) and partners.



Logo, at left, is used by Not In Philly, a fledgling movement that's coming to life in that city. (See story.)

NOTE: See Page 2 for guest column on bins by Paul Cusack

What's happening in the city of brotherly love shows they care

Call him a pastor with a purpose, Dave Brindley of West Philadelphia, offers a free \$20 trash grabber and a chance to win gift cards if you commit to go out and pick up litter once a week for six months. He established Not In Philly, an anti-litter project he's looking to grow block by block through social media, [NotInPhilly.org](#) and Instagram, #NotInPhilly. So far about 50 families have signed up.

Play about litter performed for pilgrims

Aberdeen, Mississippi just wrapped up its 2017 Pilgrimage and a community group, Save Aberdeen Landmarks (SAL), was out a week before urging townsfolk to pick up roadside trash to make a good impression for the homecoming. SAL wants to be more than a voice for preserving old buildings, says its chairman, Dwight Stevens. He dresses up as Nasty Bug, a character in the litter awareness play the group presents as part of its new education package.

DID YOU KNOW?

The municipality of Oman plans to preserve its reputation as a top Gulf region beauty spot and tourist magnet by ushering in tough [new fines](#) on April 15 against littering and dumping, applicable to people who take more than one day to clean up their mess after being warned.

HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (MAR 26 - APR 2)

Some of what made our News Reel this week

Norway investing millions to clean sea (3/27)

At the March 24 launch of Norway's new research vessel, the Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the government pledged 100 million kroner (\$11.8 million) for cleaning up marine litter, including micro plastics.

Worcester fines are for the better (4/1)

Here are the latest numbers coming out of Worcester's crackdown: 365 litter louts fined £75 in the past six months, £27,375 in on-the-spot penalties, all except 13 of them dispensed to smokers littering cigarette butts.

Islands of Tonga now subject to a litter law (3/30)

Fines came in and tolerance for waste and litter went out April 1 in Tonga with the advent of a new law. Prime Minister 'Akilisi Pohiva pledged effective litter policing at a press conference. Tonga's recognition of littering as a problem and hazard came just last year.

Smiling flash mobs operate in Barbados (3/30)

Friendly flash mobs scouring Barbadian beaches is the vision behind [Barbados Guardians](#), where volunteers promise to use a "quiet, friendly, smiling" approach when they pick up litter. Their goal? to change attitudes and show others the benefits of a clean landscape.

You could say visitors behave like animals (3/30)

Karachi Zoo goers are getting a bad reputation from zoo cleaning staff who say visitors fail to use the bins provided, toss trash in fields instead, or into cages to catch the animals' attention. The zoo, which welcomes up to 1,500 a day, employs ten full-time sweepers.



YOUR SPACE

Experts share their insights and tricks of the trade

“Bin network and disposal locations”

by Paul Cusack

A bin network is where a series of litter bins are positioned in public spaces in a way that they provide multiple disposal sites as people move throughout the area. And combined they create a significant litter storage capacity spread across that space.

Litter bins are normally the domain of local council or government-managed areas but the same principles apply to sporting venues, shopping complexes, markets, festivals and events, virtually anywhere people gather, move about and litter is generated.

A good analogy is to think of a city centre, every day thousands of cars head to the CBD. Most busy cities have large parking stations spread throughout the CBD, there may be one or two ever few blocks or so. What you won't find is one or two 15 or 20 story parking station, it defeats the purpose of spreading out the service and providing parking opportunities near where people need them.

A bin network is much the same, one or two centralised mega collection locations will not achieve the desired result, spread the collection sites out through the open space where people are moving.

The foundation for litter bins in any network revolves around four points:

- Corners – bins on corners, consistent and predictable;
- Crossings – bins where people cross roads in safety;
- Entries – to parks, beaches and open spaces;
- Exits – from the above, major shopping areas, transport hubs and schools (not fast food or single commercial businesses)

A well-constructed bin network will see bins positioned at locations where large number's of pedestrians are passing by regularly. This is where you are installing 'transitional bins', they are capturing litter from passing pedestrians. The second stage of your network is identifying the locations for your 'destination bins', these are bins that are positioned in a way to capture litter generated at or near gathering points. Look at areas like picnic tables, shaded seating areas and spaces popular for public gatherings.

What does it take to build one of these networks?

Goal setting, commitment and patience are what's required to put together a successful network of bins. And if the best method of building your network requires undoing some of your current bin styles and locations then your organisation must be committed. Some of these bins and locations may be good, but many of them could be better. This new network will be about the future use of your bins, not a history lesson of bins from the past 20 years. Many years ago most post office and newsagents used to generate significant litter, same for public transport and the paper ticket system; it's a different world nowadays that requires a fresh look.

Although we cannot see into the future, we have a pretty good idea of how people are currently moving about in major public spaces.

How many bins, or how big an area?

There is no particular size required to build a network; it's more about bins being positioned in a way that lots of people will be moving past them regularly. The starting point for the network would always be the site with the largest numbers of people passing a particular point. That may seem at odds with sites where you see lots of litter, but this strategy is about supporting disposal opportunities for as many people as possible.

Networks of bins are designed to enable people to improve their behaviours by creating more consistent opportunities to do the right thing. No one single point is the problem, and no one single point can be the solution, it's about building the capability for lots of people in lots of locations. Establish your goals, understand the commitment required and have the patience to build the network that's right for your town or city.