

LYDD TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE LYDD TOWN COUNCIL AND LITTER PICKING WATCH ROMNEY MARSH

Lydd Town Council always showcases local charitable and voluntary organisations who carry out excellent work in the Parish of Lydd at their Annual Town Meetings. One of the groups giving a presentation this year was the Litter Picking Watch Romney Marsh.

Lydd Town Council are grateful for the work that they carry out to help keep the parish clean but until our new caretaker took up his role at the beginning of May we had relied on them having been without a caretaker for four months.

The presentation was given by Paul Alford who told us that he met Eric Brown on a beach clean organised by Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership back in 2016 and together they agreed that a co-ordinated approach would be more effective and rewarding. A group of willing volunteers was formed and as the group grew in numbers many local businesses offered support.

They purchased equipment to lend to local volunteers to adopt a patch often their own street or a loved corner of the Marsh.

The group then started organising litter picks on many beaches from Lydd through to Folkestone providing equipment, safety advice and refreshments afterwards.

The group bought a dilapidated trailer which volunteers stripped down and completely rebuilt before equipping it with everything they could possibly need.

In January 2019 the group were approached by the Ministry of Defence and Landmarc at Lydd camp to see if we could support them in removing the vast quantities of plastic debris that is washed up on the foreshore of the Lydd firing range.

Four years later they have removed 2,478 sacks of rubbish and hundreds of large items during monthly beach cleans and 1,700 hours of volunteer time.

In August 2021 Eric Brown was presented with a certificate of Commendation and a medal of excellence by Brigadier Jonathon Bartholomew OBE for our work on the ranges.

In March 2023 Christopher McAuley and Paul Alford were invited to the Cabinet War Rooms at Whitehall to accept a Highly Commended Sanctuary.

Cllr. Clive Goddard who had carried out a litter pick supported by the Litter Picking Watch had nominated the group for a second time to receive a Lydd Town Council Community Award which was presented by the mayor at the end of the meeting. Cllr Goddard presented Paul and Robin Francis with a roll of bin bags to help them keep up their good work!!