

# Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Wednesday 30th September 2020**

**River Stour Clean Up**

Amazing volunteers have helped remove 315 glass bottles, 197 food wrappers, 193 drinks cans, 71 pieces of clothing and 18 masks out of River Stour during river cleans organised by Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership.

The river cleans were organised as part of Keep Britain Tidy’s #GreatBritishSeptemberClean with 1 litter pick in Ashford (outside Ashford International) and 2 in Canterbury (Miller’s Field down to St Radigunds and then St Radigunds down to Kingsmead). The majority of waste collected was single use food and drink packaging but around 75 glass bottles were removed from 5m of river in Canterbury with some having been in the river for a long time.

In total over 30 bags of rubbish were removed by volunteers plus several larger objects including 9 traffic cones, 7 disposable BBQs, 4 tyres, 3 scooters, a shopping trolley, a bike, a child’s high chair and numerous pieces of corrugated plastic..

Our Stour Officer, Lauren Baker said “The amount of rubbish which came out was staggering and we know we haven’t got all of it; there just are not enough hours in the day to remove it all. Even more frustrating is seeing litter back in the river a few days after we had cleaned that area and also passers-by chucking their rubbish into the river in front of us for us “to collect”. Luckily the majority of passers-by had the opposite attitude and thanked us for taking the time to clean up after others. At all 3 litter picks there were SO many bins available for people to use along the river paths, its pure human laziness. Please use the bins provided or take your litter home. A huge thank you to all those who do regularly litter pick their local area”.

These events were organised by Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership as part of Keep Britain Tidy’s #GreatBritishSeptemberClean campaign. Our Stour is a Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership project aiming to engage people with the watercourses of the Stour catchment, raising awareness of the wildlife which calls the river home and tackling the issues the river faces including litter pollution.

For further details please contact Kentish Stour on 03000410900 or email kentishstour@kent.gov.uk

Photo attachments: Ashford photos- 1) group shot with litter, 2) branded items and wet wipes 3) bike out of river. Canterbury photos 1) group photo 2) in river 3) rubbish collected from Abbots Mill area 8 bags 4) camping chair, tyres, traffic cones 5) two blue barrels full of litter

Mobile contact: 07921038049 Lauren Baker- Our Stour Officer