



IN FOCUS

MANMOEL MOUNTAIN ROAD

Litter and Fly-tipping continues to be a blight on our communities. But all across the borough, inspirational and determined volunteers are fighting back *BY RHYS PEARCE*

Charlene Baker is a resident of Ebbw Vale and has been an active Blaenau Gwent Litter Champion for just over two and a half years. Like many of our volunteers, she is passionate about the local environment and strives to make a difference in her local community.

Whilst browsing the BgLitterChamps hashtag on our Facebook page, we were astonished to see the mass of bags she had collected from the Manmoel Mountain Road in Ebbw Vale, also known as Y Domen Fawr mountain. "This is 1 of 3 hot spots for Fly-tipping in this area which my children and I patrol", Charlene explains.

"I don't drive, so I've been using my bike to pull big builders bags of rubbish".

Much of Charlene's efforts have been focused on Manmoel and just recently she collected 67 bags of rubbish, as well as other miscellaneous items found near-by.

"I don't drive, so I've been using my bike to pull big builders bags of rubbish from the mountainside to the roadside, ready for collection. Sometimes I'm able to get help from my children and other litter pickers to remove the bags."



Whilst recalling her experiences of litter picking in the area, Charlene told us, "I've witnessed cattle choking on black bags and polystyrene, which is heart-breaking to see. I did once help pull a bag from a horse's mouth which had become stuck in its windpipe, but unfortunately I'm not always able to help due to the animals fleeing in panic".

Her story is a stark and sobering reminder of the impact that litter and fly-tipping poses on not only the environment, but wildlife too. It also further demonstrates the importance of our local volunteers and the great lengths they often go to for the good of the community.

We would like to say a special thank you to Charlene for taking the time to speak with us and for her ongoing work as a Blaenau Gwent Litter Champion.



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