



**LIVE  
HERE  
LOVE  
HERE**

Welcome to January's edition of the Live Here Love Here Newsletter. As the storms took hold and high water hindered some clean ups we took cover in the office and took a look at the A B C's of Live Here Love Here... Read on to find out more.

## A is for Adopt A Spot

Adopt A Spot is a volunteering opportunity through Live Here Love Here that allows groups across Northern Ireland to formally adopt an area of their choosing and look after it. This may be a school, a park, a road or a stretch of beach and anyone can get involved from families, community groups, sporting associations and businesses. These groups look after the area for a minimum of two years and they dedicate time four times a year to clean up the area and report information back via the Live Here Love Here website. If you would like to get involved please click [here](#) to learn more.



## Adopt A Spot



Our group in focus this month is the **1st Anahilt Scouts**. Their involvement in Adopt A Spot has enabled them to achieve their badge for Environmental Conservation Activity and to keep the area around the scout hall and the entire village looking great, one half of the troop would clean in the direction of the school and post office and the other half clean towards the playground. All the local residents are extremely pleased with their efforts—Well done!!

## B is for BIG Spring Clean



Live Here Love Here is delighted to announce that April will be the BIG Spring Clean month— It's time to start planning your BIG Spring Clean in April!

Last year over 89,000 people showed that they love where they live, work and learn by getting involved in the BIG Spring Clean, picking litter from their beaches, streets, countryside and school grounds – making them cleaner and tidier for us all to enjoy!

You can [register](#) a clean-up on the Live Here Love Here website and receive a clean-up kit including: Gloves, Bags, High-vis vests, Posters and a Hints and tips booklet.

Our Local Councils support this campaign with litter-pickers and collection of rubbish bags and you can find their details [here](#).

When you register your results we will send you a certificate thanking you for your participation.



## C is for Clean Coast Programme

Dates have been set and planning is beginning for Coca-Cola Clean Coast Week 2016 which will take place from **6th to 18th May**. This is a fun filled week of activities to get outdoors and do some practical actions to care for and enjoy our coastline.

Did you know that the Coca-Cola Clean Coast Programme also covers river and inland waterway activities?! We recently came across a fantastic tool designed to allow volunteers to monitor the health of a river and measure the general quality of the water in their river.

MiniSASS is a citizen science tool that has been developed in South Africa. It uses the make-up of macroinvertebrates (small animals) living in the rivers to interpret the condition of the river.

### Sharing data: Globally, live and for free!

The results can be added onto the [www.minisass.org](http://www.minisass.org) website and a coloured crab appears on the map which represents the score – a blue crab means a healthy stream while a red crab indicates a ‘modified or poor’ quality stream.

As the families of insects occur all over the world people from Ethiopia, India, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Australia, Mexico, Canada and Northern Ireland have been using the miniSASS system. It appears as though it can work in virtually any river or stream in the world!

### Clean Coast Competition Time

We have one miniSASS kit to give away to a lucky Clean Coast Group, to enter please answer the following question: **What coloured crab represents a healthy stream on the miniSASS map?** Please send your answer to [nicola.murray@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](mailto:nicola.murray@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org) before 5pm on 25th February 2016.



### Helping Hand - a BIG ‘thank you’ 15% discount voucher!

Helping Hand Environmental is the UK's Number 1 Litter-picker manufacturers and distributors. They have been producing the litter-picker that we all know and love since 1965. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful have been using Helping Hand Environmental products for over 10 years and we now have our own bespoke litter picker.

Check out the Helping Hand [website](#) for great products.

To place an order with Helping Hand using the discount visit the Live Here Love Here [website](#) for more information or phone Helping Hand on **01531 635678**.

## Small Grants Scheme

If you received funding through the 2015 Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme you can submit your funding claims now! Live Here Love Here is keen to make this process as easy as possible and to benefit your group. Don't forget all claims must be submitted before **4th March 2016**.

Groups like the Glas-na-Bradan Conservation Association have an aim to bring their river back to what it was renowned for historically; "The River of the Silvery Fish." They received funding through the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme to address the need for improved water quality in order to enhance the surrounding urban biodiversity. This is a unique urban river project that includes both cross community and educational elements.

The project aims to educate local children about biodiversity in the area and set up small community work parties as well as kick sampling sessions where young and old can learn about the aquatic invertebrates and how they are indicative of good water quality.

Check out their Facebook page for regular updates on the progress of the project [www.facebook.com/glasnabradan](https://www.facebook.com/glasnabradan)



## Big Lottery Fund



The People and Communities programme will invest £60 million over the next five years to support voluntary, community and social enterprise groups to work with local people to make the changes they want in their communities.

Grants of between £30,000 and £500,000 will be available for two to five year projects that work with local people, build on a community's strengths, and are well connected to other services and activities in the community. The programme will remain open for applications for five years. To read more please click [here](#) to visit the website.

**Thank you to all our partners for your support**



Live Here Love Here is a positive, people powered campaign focused on improving our local environment and building a sense of civic pride in our local communities. Partners involved are: Department of the Environment, Tourism Northern Ireland, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Thank you to all our partners for your continued support. Not already a partner but want to support Live Here Love Here?

Please contact: [enquiries@liveherelovehere.org](mailto:enquiries@liveherelovehere.org)