

Ink Bin Eco Heroes...

Introducing Sophie and Brandon from Northumberland



Sophie is ten and her brother Brandon is six. They live in Blyth, Northumberland- a pretty port town in the north of England. Sophie and Brandon work so hard in keeping Blyth colourful in many different ways. The world needs more Sophies and Brandons!



What is litter?

Litter is nothing but a piece of waste or rubbish that has been thrown away; the difference being that it is without consent and at the wrong location, without even considering if it can be recycled.

Littering simply means throwing away objects on the ground or leaving them lying there instead of disposing them in rubbish bins or recycling bins.

WHAT AFFECT IS LITTERING HAVING ON OUR PLANET?

- Littering creates visual pollution
- Cleaning litter is very costly to the economy
- Littering leads to tension in society
- Littering can lead to all sorts of pollution in the: Soil, Water and Air.

The port of Blyth dates back to the 12th Century so there is lots of history. The oldest piece of litter which Sophie and Brandon have found dates from 1986. Have you found anything older than this?



The waste that originates from houses, industries and factories should be placed either in a recycling bin, used for compost or placed at a waste disposal centre.

Dropping litter shows a lack of respect for your friends and neighbours and spoils the community for everybody else.

As well as making places look messy, litter can attract rats and insects, which can spread diseases.



Lets Keep it Easy-
can you pick up one
piece of litter today
and put it into your
household recycling?



Sophie and Brandon have raised over £3000 since July 2020

Blyth Wildlife Rescue - 62 litter picks in 31 days July 2020

Blyth Food bank - during self isolation due to school bubbles being affected Sophie and her sisters cycled on an exercise bike at home from Blyth to Brighton to raise money. Every mile they cycled they would buy 1 item for the food bank to donate. Brandon joined in too but he was too small for the bike.

Brandon then had to self-isolate so every can he litter picked = 1 item which they had to buy. It later changed to walking 500 steps to buy one item!

Christmas marathon litter pick - litter picked everyday 1-24th of December to raise money for two local Christmas appeals and to tidy up for Santa coming to Blyth.

KEEPING OUR EARTH CLEAN

Keeping our earth clean is the responsibility of every individual. Each of us must be aware of our own behaviour and how it affects the environment.

We can do this by developing a sense of care and ownership for the world in which we live - its air, water, land and all its inhabitants.

Anyone can have a positive influence on the environment by helping to reduce the amount of litter and pollution, which is why we need to educate everyone.

What is plogging?

Plogging is a quite recent thing- jogging and litter picking at the same time. Last year, Becky and her trusty Jack Russel, Rosie, tried plogging. You can watch how we got along on our Ink Bin Facebook page!



Other things Sophie & Brandon have done:

Free Creative packs for children:

Sophie and Brandon have made and supplied over 300 free creative packs for children in Blyth containing creative activities Sophie and her two older sisters have made along with supplies to do them. These have been themed: Lockdown, Summer, Halloween and Christmas making activities such as DIY paper decorations, booklets and colouring pages.

Random acts of kindness –

Sophie and Brandon are going to do at least one random act of kindness each month.

After having been given £5 from a gentleman for litter picking, they have used this and also money they have found to think of ideas. So far they have bought 5 people a treat from their local bakery and left daffodils around town.

Crisp packet project –

Sophie and Brandon have set up an area group for the CPP for our local area to turn crisp packets and plastic packaging into items for those living on the streets. Recycling project using packets and plastic destined for the landfill into something that could provide some help. By making sheets from crisp packets, they can be used as blankets, ground sheets, wind barriers, protection for blankets etc also making bags to help keep belongings dry.

Sophie and Brandon have raised money to make activity parcels for three local care homes including lots of creative and activities to keep the residents entertained while not able to have visitors. The packs include personalised supplies for them to create a lockdown scrapbook so they can record what they have been up to so residents can share at a later date with their families.

Brandon's bag of essentials for Key workers –

Brandon has made over 30 bags of essential items for key workers (hand gel, hand cream, toiletries, snack bars, coffee/tea packets) to help key workers stay safe whilst working during lockdown. With the help of his family, he has handed these out around the local community.

Crisp packet project –

Sophie and Brandon have also been making sheets from crisp packets, they can be used as blankets, ground sheets, wind barriers, protection for blankets etc also making bags to help keep belongings dry.

“The greatest threat to our planet, is the belief that someone else will save it.”

-Robert Swan

What's Next?

Sophie and Brandon are currently organising Easter event for free for families and children in Blyth.

They are also excited to receive their first Ink Bin and start collecting ink cartridges for recycling!

HOW WE CAN PREVENT LITTERING

- Set an example by not littering.
- Pick up one piece of litter each day.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Every week on the bin collection day, pick up all the litter in front of your house (it also helps the bin men!)
- Plant and maintain flowers along the pavements and paths as people tend to litter less in areas that have been beautified.
- Carry a litter bag in your car and on walks or hikes.
- Work with your neighbours to keep your area clean.
- Participate in community clean up events, if there are the clean up events, why not take action and set one up yourself?

Get involved, download our litter activity sheet to start saving the world....



The truth behind littering...

- 9 billion tons of litter ends up in the ocean every year.
- 75% of people admitted that they have littered in the past 5 years.
- The most common object found during a litter clean-up is fast food waste
- Litter can hurt your pets - over 70,000 pets and wild animals are hurt in Britain every year because of litter.

Are you an Eco Hero?

Please do get in contact- we would love to share your story! Find us through our website- www.theinkbin.co.uk



Take a look at our activities page for a free scavenger hunt to get your litter picking started today!

www.theinkbin.co.uk/ecokids