

MED Newsletter

Summer 2020



We inspire
with energy.

Dear reader. As you may know, we aim to keep you updated on significant events and operational performance.

Following on from the news we brought you at the start of last year, the 2019 litter pick took place at Easter to coincide with Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean. Once again, there was a fantastic turnout, with more than 50 local people joining MVV staff, family and friends to clean up Blackie Woods and Weston Mill Creek.

Together we cleared more than a quarter of a tonne of litter from our nearby green and blue spaces! So thank you and well done to everyone who took part.

Community and school visits continue to increase, with 3,500 people passing through our doors in the last year. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had to temporarily suspend all visits to site and most of our staff are working from home. Our operational staff are classed as key workers and we have put measures in place to protect them; the waste acceptance and control room teams have worked extremely hard through these difficult times and we are pleased to say that none have succumbed to the virus.

We have celebrated their commitment, along with that of all key workers and in particular the NHS, by lighting up blue on Saturday 4th July; we joined other landmarks across the UK to mark 72 years since the founding of the NHS.



Pictures by Sarah Newton Photography

The annual open day went ahead as planned during the 2019 school summer holiday, welcoming over 240 people through our gates, in spite of the wind and rain. Bodhi Fitness and Wellbeing (a local family-run business) even managed to keep the BBQ going! As ever, the site tours were extremely popular, and we are already planning how to improve the running of these so that more people can take part.



Site tours are always popular!

Our annual maintenance shutdown was planned for June this year, but the Coronavirus pandemic affected that too; we are now planning to undertake a period of maintenance in September and a mailshot will go out nearer the time to keep you informed. The Incinerator Liaison Committee meeting which normally takes place in July, has also been postponed and will now be held after the shutdown; this will enable us to discuss maintenance activities as we usually do at our summer meetings.



Lighting up blue in honour of all key workers

In February this year, we held our 10th annual 'Clean the Creek' event and collected 45 bags of rubbish, weighing in at 180kg. This year we would like to thank 35th Whitleigh Scouts, who helped organise the volunteers and hand out equipment, Clean Our Patch CIC, for additional equipment and volunteers, Barne Barton Community Ambassadors and, of course, all the local families who came along to help.



35th Whitleigh Scouts helped out with this year's Clean the Creek event

Finally, we are delighted to announce that the Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) which results from our process and has, until recently, been taken to the Netherlands for processing and recycling, is now travelling a much shorter distance to Exeter, where our recycling contractor has opened its first UK site. This offers a number of benefits, including a reduced carbon footprint and the availability of cheaper, more sustainable, aggregate for local projects such as the Forder Valley Link Road.



Processing bottom ash for local use



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