

Graffiti busters get to grips with community clean-up

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Let's beat the vandals together

FED up residents are sending out a clear message to the taggers: "We don't want your scrawls round here."

A team of volunteers, trained to remove graffiti from their community, cleaned up a whole road alongside EP Collier School on Good Friday.

The Bell Tower Community Association tackled graffiti in Ross Road, one of the three problem streets in their patch.

David Neale, campaign organiser, said: "The graffiti clean-up went really well – we cleaned up about a third of all the graffiti in our area and are now planning more sessions to complete the job."

The team of five cleaned around 20 pieces of graffiti – eight from walls of houses, five on street signs and one on a garage door, and they also repainted three green Virgin Media boxes and a doorway.

The blitz used up all the council-supplied chemicals and the group have now asked for more. They have also received some cleaning sprays and paints from Caversham Road ironmongers Drews.

The group plan to tackle Northfield Road next and then Randolph Road – which are both eyesores.

Mr Neale added: "Local people, businesses and the council need to work together to solve this kind of problem, and collaboration is what our initiative is all about."

■ Reading Borough Council provides free training and graffiti removal kits to community groups.

To get involved or report graffiti in your area, call the hotline on 0800 834 035.

Tell us about your graffiti hotspots and what your community is doing to clean-up graffiti in your area. Call Lucy Thorne on 0118 963 3077 or e-mail lucythorne@readingchronicle.co.uk



All hands to the wall: Bell Tower Community Association David Neale, Mary O'Donoghue, Teresa Colliass, Phil Gill, Sue Colliass and chairwoman Barbara Kendall.

Picture 0724785a by Ed Godden