

# GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE

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SEARCH

## HEADLINES

Tuesday, 15th September 2009

## COMMENT

## SPORTS

## OPINION

## FEATURES

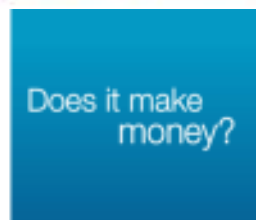
## UK NEWS

## OUR HISTORY

## NEWS ARCHIVE

## LINKS

## CONTACT US



## CLEAN UP THE ROCK

Over 600 volunteers from Gibraltar will join an estimated 35 million volunteers from 120 countries to take community based action to help protect the environment for future generations as part of the Clean Up the World Campaign this Saturday and Sunday.

The Environmental Safety Group is a member of Clean Up the World, one of the largest community based environment campaigns in the world, and together with several volunteers is organising various activities to promote these issues on the Rock. To launch the campaign locally an exhibition was opened yesterday by the Mayor Olga Zammit.

The exhibition will remain open throughout the week and over the clean up weekend itself; a weekend that will see a parade involving several local schools, a street exhibition with music and activities, all promoting the good work by local volunteers who will be cleaning up our green and marine environments from waste and litter.

Janet Howitt from the ESG urged the community to get involved in the planned local activities.

"As part of the Clean Up the World campaign, our volunteers will be highlighting the chronic nature of fly tipping and littering on the Rock and why it continues to be necessary for such widespread clean ups to take place. The several tons lifted will hopefully send a strong message once again to the community that much remains to be done on this issue," she said adding that while the four years of the campaign locally has seen improvements begin to take place in Gibraltar we still see degraded areas and attitude by a sizeable minority which needs alternative actions.

The campaigners are calling for better facilities, fining and enforcement, need for litter wardens, signage and continued improvement in facilities provided by the authorities. Also necessary, Mrs Howitt says, is a sustained information campaign by Government to promote the importance of these issues and promote positive behaviour towards our surroundings in general.

"Disposing of waste is also very harmful to the environment and climate change and so a sustained campaign to encourage a 'Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle' approach to our day to day lives is also important. The creation of a modern waste facility park, or Eco-Park on the Rock would also be of great benefit to improve the overall situation and facilitate grouping of different waste for onward recycling."

Clean Up the World founder and Chairman Ian Kiernan AO\* sent a message of support to the local volunteers participating in the Clean Up the World campaign.

"Volunteers from Gibraltar will be making a valuable contribution not just to their own communities but to the rest of the world as well. At a time when global action on climate change is needed, every local action helps make a difference," he said.

"Congratulations to all CUTW Volunteers from Gibraltar for being a leader in the local community and for being a part of the solution on climate change. Unity is important when it comes to addressing the causes of climate change. Each of us can make a difference. When we work together the benefits are even greater."

The activity in Gibraltar has been supported locally by the Bonita Trust, Open Day Trust and Hassan's as well as: Rotary International, Interbuild, Image Graphics, TGWU, Master Services and Tarik Shipping, We Care, and many, many others will also be supporting the clean up with equipment and services.



< BACK

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