

Jane's pride

Jane Saxon, owner of the Moresby Hall country guest house, is committed to keeping her local area spick and span.

Jane regularly spends time picking up litter from around the Hall. She collects fast food debris daily from close to her front gate. "In exactly the time it takes to eat a burger and chips from a town centre takeaway," she says, "it arrives at my gate and gets thrown out."

But Jane also does a larger-scale clean-up every two or three weeks. "I have a little trolley and I use giant, heavy-duty refuse sacks. I go about 200 yards and back on the verges near the Hall. It takes about an hour and in that time I'll collect two huge bags, too heavy to lift. I must look like a crazy bag woman – you can see it on people's faces as they pass me - but I just can't look at it, it drives me nuts so I have to pick it up.

"If people would consider sweeping outside their house, shop or business occasionally, as was the custom some years ago, it would make a big difference to the community."

And it's not just litter that Jane collects.

"I don't enjoy picking up other people's dog poo, but if it is right in the middle of the path I just can't stand to leave it there, so I pick that up too. I put some signs up and left dog poo bags for people, and that did seem to improve things. I don't understand those who pick it up, put it in a bag and then don't put it in a bin."

Jane added: "We could really do with a bin at the bus stop, that would help. But the council can only do so much. Occasionally, people are going to have to find a bin, or even pick up a little bit of other people's rubbish too."