

Rubbish message is paraded on catwalk

by Nicci Brown

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A COLLECTION of bin liners and plastic bottles, crisp packets and discarded newspapers greeted guests at a fashion show with a difference at Blandford Corn Exchange on Saturday.

Young people from the Treads advice and information centre created garments of the future from residents' trash to bring home the message that rubbish should be binned and not left on the streets.

The event was organised by the Clean-up Blandford Campaign in association with the centre which works with 12 to 25 year olds in the town.

Campaign chairman Trevor Roberts said: "Our aim is to encourage awareness of litter issues in Blandford, and after originally working with the primary school age group, we have been working with the teenagers to help us put over our message."

The programme boldly spelt out that cigarette butts, orange peel and banana skin can take two years to decompose, plastic bags ten to 20 years, tin cans 50 years, aluminium cans 100 years and plastic bottles forever.

Decompose

It also highlighted the £50 penalties which can be imposed under the Police Reform Act on those dropping litter, and the fines of up to £2,500 under the Environment Protection Act.

But after strutting their stuff in a variety of imaginatively-fashioned outfits featuring black bin liners, newspaper, discarded tissue and material, plastics and foil, the 13 young models had their reward - a chance to model, instead, some of the best outfits on offer from local shops, Realtime, Erika and Ragtags.

The evening, compered throughout by Tony Horrocks, also featured a fashion show of clothes from Country Casuals with an older group of volunteer models. It also featured a video presentation from schoolchildren on littering and the presentation of a tankard to Clean-Up Blandford Campaign supporter John Pickering.



AUDIENCE REACTION: David Rose addresses the audience.



RUBBISH RULES: A Treads model paces the catwalk in litter-covered gear. Pictures by Pixelight Limited.



LITTER PICKER: John Pickering is presented with a tankard trophy for his services to the Clean-up Blandford Campaign.