

20 People

Who works with Defra?

JASON ALEXANDER
Managing Director of Renzacci UK

“Renzacci UK is a leading supplier of dry-cleaning equipment and I'm also an active member of the Society of Laundry Engineers and Allied Trades (SLEAT). Recently, I was asked to feed into the redrafting guidance on the dry-cleaning aspects of the solvent emissions directive (SED). Defra is trying to make the legislation easier to understand and it was refreshing to see them so open to industry feedback. It gave us a chance to comment on the previous drafts. We also wanted to

make the legislation more relevant to the challenges faced by small business owners and current technological improvements in machinery. As a supplier, we completely welcome this legislation because it helps to get rid of cowboy operators. If you're a reputable dry-cleaner, it should be a piece of cake to comply with SED. Legislation has been a long time coming and we have totally embraced what Defra has done. It's one of the few good things to be dictated by Europe!”

Green day

The Defra Legal team have been getting their hands dirty this autumn. In September, a group of volunteers “greened up” The Greenway in east London, as part of Conservation for London 2012. “The Greenway is unique,” says Vickie Jamieson, of the Litigation and Prosecution team. “It covers 30 hectares, crosses four different waterways and is a haven for wildlife.”

The day's activities were organised in partnership with the London Wildlife Trust and focused on clearing invasive plants, litter-picking, native hedgerow and meadow replanting, creating loggeries and installing bird and bat boxes.



Urban oasis

The Environmental Law team also spent a very hot day of their special leave at Gillespie Park Nature Reserve in north London. There, they cleared brambles and goat's rue from part of the reserve's wildflower meadow. “It was very hard work but we made great progress - helped by a long stop for a shared picnic lunch by the pond,” said volunteer Jessica Rayburn. “Gillespie Park always welcomes volunteers and it's a great way to do your bit for Muck In4Life.”



On the Waterfront

It was all hands on deck for the Inland Waterways team when they explored the Oxford canal with their British Waterways colleagues. “Our team monitors the funding allocated to British Waterways by Defra so it was really interesting to see how they spend it, from a boater's perspective,” said Evelyn Mills, the team's Administrative Officer.

As well as their health and safety briefing, the team learned how to handle a narrow boat and operate a canal lock, and visited a hire-boat business located on the canal itself. “I hear about issues like water abstraction and boat licensing but, until now, they have been hard to envisage,” added Evelyn. “Seeing them for myself was extremely helpful.”

