

JULIA BRADBURY calls for help with litter picking throughout the UK, and shares her thoughts on BMW's first overall win in our annual Tow Car Awards. And look out for our Club President in a new ITV series this summer

# First lady



**IT MUST** be the Greek in me (my mum's half Greek) but I love the summer! As I'm writing we've had a beautiful few weeks of sunny warm weather – perfect for picnics, brilliant for barbecues and spot-on for a splash in the sea.

Isn't it a shame though that our beaches and walking trails, our beautiful landscapes, are blighted by litter?

This year I've been an ambassador for the Keep Britain Tidy Great Plastic Pick Up Campaign and the Great British Spring Clean. I'm proud to have been involved in both events to help gain exposure and publicity for these vital litter-gathering initiatives.

Litter is a massive problem in our country. It costs our economy £800m a year to deal with. I'm fed up of hearing and reading headlines such as "This money could be spent on the NHS/medical research/eliminating poverty in Britain..." but really – 800 million quid is a lot of money that could be spent in other areas. But that's what it costs to pick up and sort out other people's mess that they can't be bothered to deal with themselves. Grrrrr. We should all be proud of our landscapes and seas, and I encourage you to shame people into picking up their litter. One of the first signs of social deprivation is out-of-control dirt and rubbish – we're better than that. I'd love Club members to get involved.

You may know that I co-founded a website with my sister Gina called [www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk](http://www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk), and in the last couple of months we've teamed up with the Club and the likes of Trail magazine to make and distribute 20,000 cotton bags for people to carry out litter picks wherever they go. Afterwards the bags can be washed

and you can carry on using them. They're a small but essential way to help tackle the tide of polluting litter that we find in our everyday lives.

To get one just visit [www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk/tog-litter-pickers](http://www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk/tog-litter-pickers) and sign up. And don't forget to check out more spring cleaning ideas at [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org).

The wave of public opinion, especially against plastic, is growing. I'm pleased to report the Club has listened and is making changes. Following my column in the January issue discussing how we can reduce our use of plastic, several members got in touch to ask whether we had any plans to change the plastic polybag the magazine is posted in. I'm delighted to say our magazine team is currently working out the details of changing to a more environmentally sustainable alternative in the coming months.

This may cost more to do now, but the more we talk about it and the more we encourage others to do the same and make changes, the more accessible and affordable these methods will become, so it's good

news that lots of people are taking action.

As you browse the pages of this magazine, you may be interested (or even surprised) to see the BMW 520d Touring has been named our winner in the 2018 Tow Car Awards.

The Tow Car Awards is a long-standing and rigorous assessment of new or updated tow cars reaching the market every year. It helps the Club provide an authoritative view on these vehicles for when members want to replace their tow car or match one to a new caravan. I'm a bit of a petrol head so it's a result I look out for every year.

With my petrol head on, I'm looking forward to presenting the Goodwood Festival of Speed in Sussex in July for ITV. It's a prestigious event with lots for all the family to do. There's plenty of excitement too – it's a real spectacle with racing events and hill-climb speed trials going on all the time, plus all the latest and fastest cars to ogle.

If you're thinking of going, check out Chichester Club Site as a great place to stay nearby.

## WHERE AND WHEN YOU'LL SEE ME NEXT

Aside from the Goodwood Festival of Speed, you'll see me on ITV in August presenting My £10k Holiday Home, a series of six episodes where I meet people all across Europe who've bought and renovated holiday homes for £10,000 or less. Over the series you'll see me attempt to buy my own property in Portugal, and do it up for £10k. That's the total budget by the way, including the property itself.

My mate, the recycling expert Max McMurdo (who featured in the May issue of this magazine enjoying a mini motorhome break in Scotland) has a go at creating a bespoke caravan using the chassis of an old Swift tourer. Tune in to see how my little spot in Portugal, located in some gorgeous rural scenery, turns out.