# Newport’s Darren Rice honoured at King Charles III’s Garden Party for innovative magnet fishing conservation



Darren Rice, a devoted community member from Newport, made headlines recently after receiving an invitation to attend King Charles III’s Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. At 60 years old, Darren has garnered recognition for his tireless commitment to environmental conservation, particularly through his innovative approach of magnet fishing. This unique hobby has not only become a personal passion but has also enabled him to contribute meaningfully to his local community through initiatives grounded in litter collection.

The Garden Party, a prestigious event aimed at honouring individuals for their contributions to society, saw Darren mingling among 8,000 guests, which included members of the royal family. Notably, he had an engaging conversation with Zara Tindall, discussing shared interests in sports, particularly golf. This interaction highlights the personal connections that can arise in such a ceremonial setting. Reflecting on the experience, Darren described it as “brilliant,” emphasising the positive atmosphere and camaraderie present among attendees.

Darren’s journey into magnet fishing began during the COVID-19 lockdown, when outdoor pursuits became increasingly appealing. He procured a magnet online and started his explorations of local waterways. The results have been remarkable; during his outings, he has retrieved a staggering 25 tonnes of waste from the canals around Malpas, including unexpected finds such as shopping trolleys, knives, and cans. The scrap material collected is sold, with proceeds being generously donated to various foodbanks across Newport. This dedication to both environmental stewardship and community support illustrates the potential for individual actions to catalyse broader social change.

The initiative of magnet fishing aligns with a growing trend among communities across the UK, where local groups are engaging in litter-picking events to support the environment. For instance, members of the Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club organized a litter-picking event around Chichester Harbour to commemorate King Charles III's coronation. Collectively, they removed 525 kilograms of rubbish in a mere two hours, underscoring the collective impact of community efforts in promoting environmental conservation and public health.

These actions resonate widely, especially in light of the various community festivities that have accompanied the new king's coronation. The "Big Lunch" initiative, which encouraged neighbours to gather for picnics and street parties, fostered community spirit and enabled citizens to connect with one another in celebration of their new monarch. At these events, attendees experienced surprise visits from royal family members, bolstering a sense of unity and national pride.

Darren’s efforts, alongside those of countless others across the nation, reflect a renewed commitment to environmental issues and community engagement, demonstrating that individual hobbies can lead to significant social benefits. As he credits his fellow volunteers Julie and Edward for their indispensable help, it is evident that the spirit of teamwork runs parallel to the personal endeavours that uplift local communities. In a world often burdened by challenges, Darren's story serves as an inspiring reminder of the positive changes that can arise from dedicated individuals determined to make a difference.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Paragraphs 3, 4
3. Paragraph 4
4. Paragraph 5
5. Paragraph 5
6. Paragraph 5
7. Paragraph 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25184436.newport-magnet-fisher-attends-king-charles-iiis-garden-party/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25184436.newport-magnet-fisher-attends-king-charles-iiis-garden-party/?ref=rss> - Darren Rice, a 60-year-old from Newport, was invited to Buckingham Palace to attend King Charles III’s Garden Party. Known for his community service, Darren leads the 'Newport canal clean-up litter picking group' and practices 'magnet fishing' to remove rubbish from local canals. During the event, he spoke with Zara Tindall about golf and shared his experiences of collecting various items, including shopping trolleys, from the waterways. Proceeds from the scrap metal collected are donated to foodbanks across Newport. Darren credits fellow litter pickers Julie and Edward for their assistance.
3. <https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/lifestyle/outdoors/sailing-club-members-come-together-to-mark-king-charles-coronation-by-litter-picking-around-chichester-harbour-4136819> - In May 2023, members of the Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club participated in a litter-picking event around Chichester Harbour to commemorate King Charles III's coronation. This initiative was part of the Big Help Out community program, where 11 sailing clubs from East Hampshire and West Sussex collectively collected 525 kilograms of rubbish over two hours. The event aimed to promote environmental conservation and community engagement, aligning with the Royal Yachting Association's Green Blue initiative, which focuses on areas like waste management and habitat protection.
4. <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/nation-world/big-lunch-follows-coronation-king-charles-iii/507-44a04465-42a5-4e96-b740-dd1950793f71> - Following King Charles III's coronation in May 2023, the UK celebrated with a series of community events, including the Big Lunch. Thousands of picnics and street parties were held across the country, bringing neighbors together to honor the new monarch. The festivities featured performances by artists like Katy Perry and Lionel Richie at Windsor Castle, and appearances by members of the royal family, including Prince William and Princess Kate, who surprised picnickers with casual visits. These events aimed to foster community spirit and celebrate the coronation.
5. <https://www.wpri.com/entertainment-news/ap-entertainment/big-lunch-follows-big-coronation-celebrating-king-charles/> - In May 2023, King Charles III and Queen Camilla attended a star-studded concert at Windsor Castle, featuring performances by Lionel Richie and Katy Perry, to celebrate the monarch's coronation. The royal couple enjoyed the show, with Richie performing 'All Night Long' and Perry singing 'Roar.' Other members of the royal family, including Princess Charlotte and Prince George, joined the festivities. The concert was part of a series of events, including the Big Lunch, where thousands gathered for picnics and street parties across the UK to honor the new king.
6. <https://www.krdo.com/news/ap-national-news/2023/05/07/big-lunch-follows-big-coronation-celebrating-king-charles/> - Following King Charles III's coronation in May 2023, the UK celebrated with a series of community events, including the Big Lunch. Thousands of picnics and street parties were held across the country, bringing neighbors together to honor the new monarch. The festivities featured performances by artists like Katy Perry and Lionel Richie at Windsor Castle, and appearances by members of the royal family, including Prince William and Princess Kate, who surprised picnickers with casual visits. These events aimed to foster community spirit and celebrate the coronation.
7. <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/big-lunch-follows-big-coronation-celebrating-king-charles/> - In May 2023, King Charles III and Queen Camilla attended a star-studded concert at Windsor Castle, featuring performances by Lionel Richie and Katy Perry, to celebrate the monarch's coronation. The royal couple enjoyed the show, with Richie performing 'All Night Long' and Perry singing 'Roar.' Other members of the royal family, including Princess Charlotte and Prince George, joined the festivities. The concert was part of a series of events, including the Big Lunch, where thousands gathered for picnics and street parties across the UK to honor the new king.