



## Q&A with Refill Champion Shannon Jones

*Shannon is the local MPR Refill Champion and helps look after our social media accounts.*

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### **Shannon, for those who aren't familiar with it, can you briefly explain what the Refill scheme is?**

Refill is an award-winning campaign to help reduce plastic use. It works in partnership with the charity Cities to Sea, based in Bristol, which was launched in 2015.

It's basically an app where people can find out where to take their reusable bottles to be filled up with free tap water. In Mold, there are now more than 30 places offering free refills.

The app can be downloaded from [Refill.org.uk](http://Refill.org.uk). I'm very excited by a recent update which now allows users to also find where they can get coffee, food and shopping 'refills' by using their own mugs, containers and bags.

### **What does being a local Refill Champion involve?**

At the moment there is a lot going on for Refill Champions like me. As the app is updated, I'm making sure that local businesses know that they can add or update their own details.

And I head up volunteers who speak to businesses in town to get them to join the



*The Refill scheme logo*

scheme. If they join, they are known as Refill stations. I also promote the schemes on social media and make sure people know why it's so important to reduce plastic.

### **Has Covid-19 had an impact on Refill?**

Covid has definitely had an impact this year on Refill, as businesses were shut at the height of the pandemic. And some are now wary of offering refills. But if any shop, cafe or business is worried they can contact me and I'll show them a short video on how to refill safely. For example, I have a great video about offering #ContactlessCoffee.

### **By using Refill, how many plastic bottles are effectively being taken out of circulation?**

If one in 10 Brits refilled regularly, then we would save 340 million plastic bottles a year!

**What motivates you to keep promoting the scheme?**

My motivation is to try and stop as much plastic going to landfill as possible. I'm just shocked by how much does go. And the fact that plastic leaches out toxins isn't good for our health.

It just horrifies me to see plastic rubbish in our streets and green spaces.

And if I can help Mold reduce the amount of plastic we see in bins and on litter picks then surely that's a good thing? I dread to think where the rubbish that I see in the River Alyn ends up and the damage it does to our environment.

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