

Clean-up act wins top prize

■ National award for scheme to get rid of graffiti

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A SELF-CONFESSED anti-graffiti fanatic has won a national award for his community service.

Medway councillor Craig Mackinlay was given the Round Table accolade for his energetic campaign to clear up Medway.

The project involves Round Table volunteers working in partnership with offenders who have been given community service orders by the courts.

Judges were impressed by the scheme and awarded it the Allied Dunbar Trophy, an annual award for the most outstanding community service project.

Graham Drummond, Round Table national president, said: "The anti-graffiti partnership involving the probation service, the brainchild of Craig Mackinlay, has been taken up in areas across the country and I'm delighted he has been recognised in this way with an award."



■ Craig Mackinlay with his Allied Dunbar trophy, awarded for his project to clean up graffiti

Cllr Mackinlay, who was elected to represent River ward last year, said: "It might be a pipe dream, but I want to see a graffiti-free Medway."

"I'm still very involved with Rochester Round Table and we have community funds available to continue the 'you do the work - I'll buy the paint' scheme I launched last year. It's a simple project where a little effort can

make Medway a cleaner and more attractive place to live."

He continues to ask Medway residents to send in photos or details of graffiti with requests for action. Residents, particularly in Rochester and Chatham, can receive a discretionary award of paint and materials to do their own clean-ups. Call 01634 841108 or email graffiti@riverward.co.uk