n recognition of Mental Health Awareness Week, we spoke to some of our local volunteers about the benefits of litter picking and how in turn this is having a positive effect on their own mental health. BY RHYS PEARCE

My wife and I litter pick in the Nantyglo area and have thoroughly enjoyed it since we started. We decided to do this for the following reasons: To gite

Greg Thomas of Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent Mind, said: "We See volunteering as being really important in tackling social isolation and in reintroducing people to community activities and engagement. For many people, volunteering can be that first step back into a work environment, without the pressure of having to maintain a job etc. But it can also allow people to explore what opportunities

may best suit them on their journey

of recovery".