

# The Cogs scheme

How children helped to recycle in WW2

In 1940 the Cogs scheme for children was launched as part of the National Salvage Campaign.

Cogs was a programme for children to encourage and teach their families about salvaging (recycling). They helped to collect paper, metal, clothes, etc. both at home and in their community. The children's work was regarded as an essential 'cog' in the wheels of the war effort.



Children could earn the red Junior Salvage Steward cog badge for their hard work, a bit like a Blue Peter badge.



The children would often go door to door in their neighbourhood collecting scrap paper and filled push-carts and old prams collected scrap metal from people's homes.

The Cogs even had their own song which gave them a sense of belonging: ***'There'll always be a dust-bin, To save for victory, So treat it right, and let it fight for home and liberty. We'll win this war together, As easy as can be. If dustbins means as much to you, As dustbins mean to me.'***

Sung to the tune of "There'll Always be an England"

