



Readstone  
Environment  
Group

***“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief  
that somebody else will save it”.***

## Newsletter June 2024

### Diary Dates:

On Wednesday June 26 on a visit to the **Friends of Ightenhill Park**, Burnley. Kay Coates gave us a super talk on bees and the sterling work of the volunteers there, so we are going to meet them and see what they do. We can arrange car sharing, please let us know if you are coming. **Meet 10.15am** in the centre of the park. Ring or email Gayle – details at bottom of page.

*On Padiham Road travelling towards Burnley, turn left at Padiham Methodist Church onto Brassey St. Turn left at the end onto Ightenhill Park Rd. and park just on your left. There is a snicket through to the park there. BB12 0LE.*

This visit is instead of our monthly meeting.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we had to cancel the Balsam Bashing and Lunch in June. However, another event is planned.

### **Saturday 20 July. Gardening and free lunch at the Village Hall.**

More details later. Everyone is welcome, including families. You do not need to be a member to attend but do need to let us know if you intend to come so that we can arrange the catering.

### Gardening Group:

The team continues to work to make the villages pleasant to walk through. We appreciate your hard work.

What a shame some of the plants and shrubs that we bought for Worthall's Road have been stolen. I hope they brighten up someone's home. This would be a mahonia, coecanthus, euonymous at the very least.



## Litter Picking:

Thank you to all our litter pickers and especially to those members who have recently 'hung up their litter pickers' you have really helped to make the area a more enjoyable place for others. This means that we need some more volunteers to help keep the village looking clean and tidy. A couple of hours once a month really helps to make a difference. Please contact Wendy via our website.

## Two Minute Litter Pick Board:

With the permission and help of Read Parish Council we are setting up a board in the playground that will have an adult and child sized litter picker. These boards can also be found at popular tourist spots around the country so that individuals can help to keep the environment tidy. We are having decals made with Reggie the Hedgehog to encourage children to use the bin for the litter too.

## Balsam Bashing:

A small group continues to meet weekly to try and get rid of this pesky plant. Apparently Read Hall Lodge Wood is balsam free...that's one for the history book. Keep up the good work, we welcome newcomers. No experience needed – a good eye, strong arm and feet to stamp the roots!

## Increasing Biodiversity in Read and Simonstone:

### Bee Boxes

These are being sited around the villages to help out the solitary bee population. We still need to find homes for a Swift box and House Martin box.

### Hedgehog Highway

We are really trying to establish how many hedgehogs we have in the villages and to help increase the numbers are encouraging people to put a hedgehog doorway in their fences. Please let us know if you have hedgehogs near you or in your garden so that we can do some Citizen Science and draw a map of their whereabouts and then we know if they have increased their numbers. If you do not see them about you may notice the signs they leave behind them. Hedgehog poo is a good sign. Its black/very dark brown, roughly sausage shaped, 1.5-2cm long, glistens and looks almost metallic.





## Nature Notes from one who daily walks the river areas:

There are Gooseanders on the river. An Otter has been seen and the Sand Martins continue their displays too. A swan was seen a couple of weeks ago.

We welcome any reports of the whereabouts of Swifts in our area.

It seems there may be an oil spill coming from a culvert on the north bank, near the stile. If you see anything could you let us know and we will report to the Environment Agency. Thankyou.



## Been and Gone

**Talk by John Norris MBE**

John's passion and enthusiasm were clear to see when he talked to us about how he changed his business practices to become more environmentally friendly in all manner of ways. His firm B.M. Longworth is a global leader. Excellent support from attendees, thank you. A good and interesting time was had by most of us. However, we were scratching our head at times due to the complicated nature of the science involved.

And did you know that redundant blades from wind turbines can be crushed and then developed in silky plastic thread to be reused? Neither did we until we saw the evidence.

## Lancs Climate Action Network at UCLAN June 6:

Wendy and I attended an interesting day. The workshops were based around Energy use, Transport, Food and CO<sub>2</sub>.

The difference in the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> used to produce a cup of coffee compared to tea is absolutely staggering. We also could make pledges in relations to the nature of the workshops. Lancs Can will remind us of these to help us keep on track. For example, I am aiming for at least 2 meat free days a week, not using the car for at least one day a week, swapping to glass milk bottles (after hip surgery) and using refill services to avoid using single plastic containers re toiletries, washing up liquid etc. I will let you know how I get on. Wendy has also made some pledges.



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## Meal at the Palazzo.:

We celebrated our Plastic Free Award and our upcoming 5-year celebration in July and a good sum was raised towards the repairs of St. John's Church.

## Dates for July:

Third - Plastic Bag free day.

It's Plastic Free July – how did that come round so quickly? If you haven't done so already, this is a good time to start getting rid of single use plastics in your home. E.g. single use water/milk bottles and use more sustainable materials. If you do it for a week or a month it may stick as a habit.

Don't forget July 14 is World Orca day.

**The 2024 General Election** is a chance to ask our candidates/new MP's what they have planned to deal with the coming/current global warming and biodiversity crises. There doesn't seem to be much in the literature that has been sent out! Another salient point is whether they are going to do something about the shocking pollution from sewage spills into our waterways.... See Surfers against Sewage for facts <https://www.sas.org.uk/water-quality/sewage-pollution-alerts/>.

Gayle

[readstoneinfo@gmail.com](mailto:readstoneinfo@gmail.com) / [gaylevictoriawray@gmail.com](mailto:gaylevictoriawray@gmail.com)

07779506499.

June 2024