



Readstone Environment Group Newsletter. April 2023

I hope that you all enjoyed the Easter season, it really does feel good to see these lighter evenings and hear the birdsong and see all the spring flowers.

Plastic Free Communities (PFC) Initiative. No, not all plastics, just single use plastics. Please see the attached if you would like more information on what we can do in order for Read and Simonstone to be a PFC. This is important for two main reasons.

Gardening Lynn and Peter are still working hard in the usual places and have sown some wild flower seeds also. They are helped by only 2/3 more people so if anybody has an hour or two to spare even if its once a month, this would be greatly appreciated.

Litter Picking We hope to deep clean a few more grot spots in the near future – perhaps on the Big Help Out volunteer day for the Coronation and do the Litter and Lunch activity too, Martholme Greenway have recently volunteered to help us with this. Watch this space.

Bat boxes, Swift and House Martin nesting boxes.

It looks like all the bat boxes have found a home. Thankyou to Mike and Penny who shortly put up the first one on a private house, not easy as it's a two man, two ladder job. We are trying to change the house martin boxes to a different pointed style to fit into the apex of buildings. Re swift boxes, this may be too late now to get them up for this years fledglings.

We do need your help though in identifying whereabouts their flight path is through the villages, it may be south of Whalley Rd. So if you notice any in the summer months please let us know.

Schools

We need to get a wriggle on and get the wild flower seeds planted. The poor weather before Easter meant that the ground was too soggy and slippery to be dug over.

Wendy has been doing a fantastic job at Read school, the children have very much enjoyed, planting all different types of seeds, flowers and vegetables.

Good news also as Simonstone School has signed up for the Plastic Free Communities Initiative.

Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)

This is one of our strategies to help reduce the carbon footprint and reduce money spent on energy bill. According to Sue's and Gavin's stats. 4 people surveyed 31 homes in 63 hours. Unless we have a very cold windy April we will be leave this activity until late Autumn. But if you think you would like a survey please contact us. We think that when we have demonstrated the TIC at the RVCAN Summit that more people from Clitheroe will come forward to take advantage of this.

Himalayan Balsam

We are hopeful that Mike's strimmer might be useful in some areas and save us some work. There will still be areas where we will have to remove the plants by hand.

Membership

We are pleased to say that we have now increased our membership by one, from last year's figures, including four new people. We have 29 members, some active, some not plus other volunteers Almost enough to cover the expense of insurance and BPRCVS subs. We have

been very lucky and are very appreciative to have received a £150 from Scope Fire and Security which will help greatly with other expenses and things we want to do.

Diary Dates

Lancashire Community Climate Action Forum – an annual event – who knew? May 17th Edgehill College. All day with lunch. REG is allowed to take one car, **there are three spaces for members or interested people. First come basis, please get in touch.**

It's somewhat exciting to see that LCC seem to have climate change firmly on their agenda ideas will be discussed on the day as maybe some of these will feed into the Lancashire 2050 Framework for the LCC environment and climate change strategy which *"aims to bring people together with a shared vision, shared ambition, shared goals and shared priorities."*

RVCAN Climate Action Summit July 1st. 10 – 4pm. Trinity Methodist Church, Clitheroe.

A member of our group is involved in the planning process. We are also having a stall to demonstrate what we are doing to improve the environment and help to reduce global warming. We will keep you informed.

Spring Cleaning

Please remember that there are many items in your kitchen cupboards that can be used for cleaning. White Vinegar, soda bicarbonate, lemons, soda crystals see:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/house-and-home/household-advice/a34760532/eco-friendly-cleaning-products/>

Recycle and upcycle rather than chuck stuff in landfill. Please don't forget Dr Fixit if there are any items that can be fixed rather than thrown away, please contact us.

Global Warming... yes it could be part of the earths cyclical process, however, the hard science shows the incredible acceleration that occurred from the start of the Industrial Revolution. Peter Frankopan's new book, *The Earth Transformed* has some really fascinating stuff on how environmental events shaped human lives and vice versa. Did you know that in Saudi Arabia apparently 700,000 barrels of a oil a day are spent keeping rooms cool? As the rooms cool the earth warms. As much as I enjoyed the book there is a spoiler alert- a gloomy ending – "We have met the enemy and he is us" (Pogo – W. Kelly 1970).

More uplifting is Gerald Manley Hopkins..

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring..

What is all this juice and all this joy..

A strain of the earths sweet being in the beginning.

Don't forget that at the next elections we need people **who will work together** to address the urgent climate and environmental crises. What are their thoughts and intentions for these important issues? We need people with a clear vision, with common sense and intelligence, good analytical abilities who are also brave and strong.

What would **you** like these people to do for your local environment that can impact on global warming?

Gayle

Tel [07779506499](tel:07779506499)/gw@gayle-victoria.com 13/4/23

*<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722020009>

**<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/22/microplastics-revealed-in-placentas-unborn-babies>