



Readstone
Environment
Group

April 2025

Keep the oceans blue, the planet green, and the animals safe. (Anon)

Diary Dates

Did You Know that **YOU** can help to improve the health of the oceans? (according to David Attenborough).

This Saturday...10th May.

9 50 am to 12:00 mid day. Meet outside the Hairdressers on Whalley Rd.

Come and join us and combine a walk along the river bank with a litter pick to protect our local environment and wild life and our oceans too. Sandmartins almost guaranteed, and maybe swallows and a kingfisher.. Chocolate too..

Two prizes for the children who pick the most litter!

You only need bring stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather and a pair of gloves. We will provide all the litter picking equipment, including child size litter pickers.

**Please let us know if you are attending. Ring Wendy
0758212215**

or email readstoneinfo@gmail.com.

"After living for nearly a hundred years on this planet, I now understand the most important place on Earth is not on land, but at sea," says Attenborough in a new documentary film, Ocean. He urges action, saying the ocean can recover faster than we thought.

This will be our third litter pick on the river this year.

Monthly litter picking continues this weekend May 8th – 11th. We really appreciate your efforts in helping to make the villages look tidy and clean. Please let us know how long it takes and how many bags are collected- gaylevictoriawray@gmail.com.

And if you can also help instead (or as well as) at the River Litter Pick that would be fantastic.

The 2 Minute Litter Pick Board erected a year ago in the playground appears to be working well. The original litter pickers are still there and the playground overall is litter free.

The litter bin stickers provided by the Duchy of Lancaster Grant will be going up shortly and on the school litter bins also.

Gardening Group

People continue to work hard at making areas look appealing. Of course the lack of rain means that we are also needing to water areas.

Biodiversity

Thankyou to Simonstone Parish Council for a £333. Community/Biodiversity grant which enabled us to provide a wormery and bird boxes for the school and Wildflower seeds for the beds on Simonstone Lane and around the area.

The 300 **primroses and cowslips** obtained via the Duchy of Lancaster grant have been potted on to be nursed through the summer and planted out in Autumn.

Balsam Bashing

As we are a very small team, we are having to scale back our efforts to combat this ever increasing UK problem that affects biodiversity. We have decided to choose two areas - where we first began the work several years ago - and try to keep at least these areas free from balsam. One at a wood near Read Hall and one area at Law Farm. We will let you know the dates for this in the next month.

As part of a Stewardship scheme **1500 hedge saplings** have been planted at Law Farm. 'Five went on an Afternoon Out' in April, 90 minutes, seven and a half hours in all, to help the job along. Fingers crossed the lack of rain doesn't affect them – the saplings..

No Mow May

By allowing the lawn grass/flowers to grow in May we are providing food for foraging bees and other pollinators until other flowers bloom.

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Refill, Upcycle

Ethical and Sustainable Living – Clothes /Fashion – A Plea for Common Sense..

Its where to make a start with this issue?

See the article below from the Guardian, where Wendy Ward has started returning clothes that are no longer wearable to the manufacturer. Now I may not personally agree with this means to an end, however, I can see why she has done this because where do you start with the huge amounts of clothing that are discarded daily in the UK and many other developed countries?

The government and politicians? There are other pressing environmental issues and threats to biodiversity to say nothing of the problems in the NHS, Social Services, Education. Etc, etc, etc.

The manufacturers? Will they and their shareholders want to give up their profits for the sake of the environment? Do they really understand who is at fault for the mountains of clothes accruing in areas all over the planet?

Us as consumers? Do we really want to give up access to cheaper 'fashionable' clothing, sometimes made with cheap overseas labour and buy more expensive clothing?

There is no easy answer for anybody, essentially the whole business/economic model of clothing us humans and catering to fashion needs, requires a massive re-structure that industries, government, politicians– and ourselves, are not currently capable of.

On the other hand I would like to suggest that us consumers can really make a difference - NOW.

By buying clothes and bedding made from natural fibres that will naturally disintegrate.

By considering what we really **need** in our wardrobes and not what we want.

By recycling , swopping and upcycling the clothes we already have.

The answer really does lie with us in choosing to help the planet. I would like to suggest that where it doesn't lie, is dropping our unwanted clothes off at charity shops, for many reasons.

(You may or may not have noticed footwear hasn't been mentioned!)

There is a lot more to be said on these issues, however, the facts speak for themselves.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/29/you-sold-it-now-recycle-it-the-protesters-mailing-worn-out-clothes-to-the-shops-they-bought-them-from>



📷 Used clothes discarded in the Atacama desert, Chile. Photograph: Martin Bernetti/AFP/Getty Images

Been and Gone

Langho in Bloom – April Meeting.

A small group of people came together ten years ago to spruce up their village and really made a difference to peoples' everyday lives by clearing and planting up small patches around the area and by collecting litter. By all accounts they had a good time along the way. Veronica, Sheila, Diana, Gillian and Ann came to talk to us about their splendid efforts, their amusing anecdotes and friendly manner made for a very pleasant evening.

More Diary Dates

Lock up your Lawn Mower for No Mow May

5th Every Flower Counts.

20th Meat Free May.

31st World Bee Day. 31st

Gayle. 5th May 2025. 07779506499.

[“There is no such thing as 'away'. When we throw anything away it must go somewhere.” Anon.](#)

