

February Newsletter 2025



“There is no such thing as 'away'. When we throw anything away it must go somewhere.”

“When you put the whole picture together, recycling (and refilling!) is the right thing to do.” (Anon)

Membership Renewal

We are grateful to all of you active and non-active members who support the group by paying a membership fee. This is most useful as it helps us to pay for insurance cover for our activities and for the thermal imaging camera. Mike and Alyson will be contacting you shortly about this.

We are grateful also to Scott at Scope Fire and Security for supporting us by paying the hire fee for the village hall.

Diary Dates

Meetings/Talks

Our next talk is towards the end of February, more news on this later. We are intending to have talks roughly every other month instead of monthly. Mainly because it is hard to find relevant speakers and also due to the cost of speakers too. Not all speakers require a fee but we like to contribute to worthwhile environmental issues linked to our speakers.

Clitheroe Repair Café

Be an eco warrior and bring your small electrical goods for repair, general mechanical repairs, sewing and darning along to the United Reformed Church on Saturday 15th February. Free to all, donations welcome. Light refreshments available too, you can just come and mooch in the café.

Repairing stuff means that we are not clogging up landfill areas with articles that still have lots of use in them.

National Nest Box Week in February is a time to:

- **Help birds:** Provide a safe place for birds to raise their young
- **Attract birds:** Invite more birds to your garden

- **Monitor bird populations:** Understand how habitat and climate change are impacting birds
- **Contribute to conservation:** Help with the conservation effort
- **Enjoy bird watching:** Have a chance to watch birds in flight and listen to their song

Are you or members of your family interested in reducing your energy bills?

Then get in touch with us to do a **Thermal Imaging Camera** survey in your home to identify draughts and cold areas. This will enable you to take measures to make your home warmer and reduce your gas and electric bills.

Litter Picking

Thankyou to the 9 people who turned out in January to pick 22 bags of litter from the banks of the River Calder This meant that some routes missed being cleared. There is plenty of litter left by the Calder so if you missed a chance and want to help out let us know.

Gardening continues. The snowdrops and daffodils are peeping through.

Three Cheers ... Deposit Return Scheme

The UK government have at last passed legislation that requires consumers to pay a deposit on plastic and metal drink containers which can be reclaimed when returned to a designated collection point.

“Across the UK, consumers purchase an estimated 31 billion single-use drinks containers each year – 12 billion plastic drinks bottles, 14 billion drinks cans, and 5 billion glass bottles. Yet current collection rates are between 70 to 75%, and a significant amount of these containers end up littered or in landfill. See: <https://resource.co/article/deposit-return-scheme-passes-parliament>

Unfortunately it is not due to be launched until October 2027 and unfortunately it doesn't include glass. Well... it's a start and a good start to 2025. It means that we are being nudged towards thinking and behaving in better ways towards our planet and all the creatures living there including humans. The above stats are only for drink bottles so imagine how many more plastic bottles there will be for our milk, washing up liquid, washing liquid and fabric softener bottles. Don't forget shampoo, conditioner, body wash bottles and more. The amount of single use plastic each household uses becomes staggeringly unimaginable. Instead imagine....

Refilling your household plastic containers

Homethings – a newish brand available in Booths that uses tapwater refillable cleaning sprays. If anyone has used these could you let us know what you think and we can pass on the info.

Ecover also has refillable products, however, I am not sure where these are sold locally so if you are aware please let us know.

Prospects at Accrington also have lots of refill products at a very good price. Take your own bottles.

By refilling we benefit future citizens enormously by taking up less space in landfill sites.

Whilst reducing global warming sometimes seems to be an impossible task, refilling single use bottles with various personal and household products has never been easier. This is something each household can actively manage.

Our Web Site

Work is slowly progressing.

Proposed New Water Bill

There seems to be some successes in this bill for example the government promising not to bail out shareholders or creditors, plus the industry will be looking at new water company models amongst other things. There are just a few final formal stages to go through.

Been and Gone

Rewilding Film at our November Meeting. This showed an amazing recovery of biodiversity when the land and various animals that were introduced were essentially left to their own devices. This resulted in a bounceback of various plants, insects and fauna including rare butterflies and beavers. See just one example on You Tube – Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm – Isabella Tree. And there are many more clips. It would have been great if local landowners had attended and seen what could be done.

Environment Days

January. 26th-28th RSPB Big Garden Watch. Did you do a count and was it the same as last year?

February 2nd National Hedgehog Day & World Wetlands Day. Nest box week.

Gayle

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