



Readstone
Environment
Group

“...August: Summer’s last stand.” S.Baume

Many thanks to the Litter Pickers and the Gardeners for their ongoing work. Your efforts make our villages much better places to look at and live in.

Biodiversity

The Balsam Bashers need a big round of applause too. The wood by Read Hall Lodge was free from balsam at the last foray and at least one ditch at Law Farm. We are now struggling with a brook leading from Whins Lane down to Law Farm whether we will be able to deem that free of Himalayan balsam in the near future is debateable. Due to the seasons slipping the balsam seed heads are ready to explode – each plant can produce up to 800 seeds! No wonder the countryside is smothered in this unwanted plant.

The Scouts also joined in with the bashing in June – a welcome addition and something new to them too.

We joined with Whalley Lions and Friends of Spring Wood in getting together for a session of balsam bashing in Spring Wood. After a few hours bashing we enjoyed a brew and biscuit in the shelter. Here’s to more people joining in the fight or struggle!

Poisonous Hemlock Dropwater Wort found near the boardwalk on the Calder was reported to us. The landowner and Parish Councils were contacted. Clifton Pollard took photos and sent them to LCC. Beware of pets and children being affected if they come into contact with the plant. Giant Hogweed is festooning the south side of the Calder like lampposts at the rivers edge. Likewise Japanese Knotweed can be seen too. It might be a good idea to check your footwear for seeds if you have been on the river banks or woods to prevent distribution.

Citizen Science – Looking at the water quality of the river Calder

Luke Sherwood from River Ribble Trust came and showed us how to take water samples. Next week Wednesday 12th 1.30pm he is coming to show us how to test the samples and leave us with a testing kit which we can use to monitor the water. If you would like to join in with this Citizen Science activity please let us know.

NB. There has been an enormous growth spurt in balsam at the rivers edge near the bridge.

Sustainability

Clitheroe Repair Café went into Simonstone School in June and repaired buttons, shoes, electrical items etc. At least one grandparent visited the café the following week.

The Weather! That old English standby..

The recent heatwaves and fires blazing across European countryside should be reminding us that the best weather we have experienced in our lives is in the past. It would be a wonderful thing if all of us do what we can to maintain the stability of the natural world and alter any behaviour that damages the planet.

Those of you who viewed the **Peoples/National Emergency Briefing** will have had time to come to terms with the scientific facts that were highlighted in the talks. More and more briefings are taking place. However, more MPs need to come on board to get the numbers up to instigate a Parliamentary Call. Although Jonathan Hinder has eventually replied to emails and believes in urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, upscaling nuclear and renewable power and the move towards a more circular economy he seems reluctant to sign up to the Call for a nationwide television screening to tell the British public about the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. Can anyone persuade him to change his mind?

Positive News

According to Great Power Shift 350 Something remarkable is happening. Last week, the UN's top climate official announced that the fossil fuel industry's greed is "inadvertently supercharging the global renewables boom."¹

As oil and gas prices surged since the start of the conflict in the Middle East, something unexpected has followed – a wave of countries switching to renewables. Not slowly. Not reluctantly. **But fast.**

Rooftop solar installations across Europe have hit a ten-year high.² Electric vehicle sales jumped 66% in Germany, 69% in France, and 72% in Italy.³ The Philippines just announced a major shift to clean power, citing energy security as the reason.

Forest Protection

And in the UK recently the Environment Secretary, Emma Reynolds announced a new law that will help protect forests from deforestation by keeping products from illegally deforested areas off our supermarket shelves and working towards ending the UK's contribution to deforestation for good.

Hopeful news from India where rhinos reintroduced into the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve last year are breeding in the wild, plus four greater one horned rhinos have recently been released there.

Prospects of Accrington

They have plenty on to interest children and adults. Bug hunts, tree identification, summer wreath making. Becoming an RSPB Campaigner, How to Survey a Hedgerow.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQhVhZWBFWWfZGqfGCPfBrXfdC>

Been and Gone

We enjoyed two very interesting visits recently. Firstly to Monkhall Farm, Briercliffe where Marcus and Helen consider it an adventure to run a small farm sustainably rearing native and rare breeds of cattle, goats, pigs, poultry and sheep. Their animal husbandry and land management is much to be admired. They are true eco warriors. A magical end to a wonderful visit was a sighting of a barn owl with its prey.

Secondly we visited Langho in Bloom and walked round the village admiring the hard work and skill of the gardening team who produced wonderful and colourful displays.

At both venues we had welcome refreshments. Sheila's cream buns were extra special.

Environment dates for August – Allotments week. Everyone is on holiday!

And Finally

"Water is life's matter and matrix...There is no life without water." Albert Szent-Gyorgyi.

Please don't forget the birds and hedgehogs in this warm weather.

August 3rd 2026

Gayle