

REG NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

Hello Everyone,

Another dry April has meant our gardening team has been out with watering cans to keep our seedlings and plants ticking over until meaningful rain arrives. The Cricket Club, Stuart Fraser and Automotive Tools have generously let us have some of their water, many thanks to them all.

So, on to other topics:

Big Clean for the Queen: As part of the villages' Platinum Jubilee celebrations, on Saturday 21st May we are having a cleaning session, from 10.00 - 12.00. The aim is to spruce up some of the street furniture - names of roads, finger posts, the bus shelters, benches and seats (eg in the children's play park, Church Street garden and School Lane garden), in fact anywhere you can think of, to make the place fit for Her Majesty to visit! This could also include getting rid of weeds on pavements, twigs left from the recent storms, in short whatever could do with getting rid of or a bit of elbow grease! In short, whatever you think needs doing. We will be supplying cleaning materials.

If you would like to take part, please contact Gayle on gw@gayle-victoria.com or 07779 506499. Why not invite your neighbours to join in too?!

Litter: In April 17 people went out, they spent a total of 27 hours, and collected 34 bags of rubbish. Well done all!

This month's pick is this week, Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th May. As usual, please let me know if you intend to do your usual route (if you have one), and the outcome - time and number of bags. If you haven't got a route, and would like to come out and help, please get in touch also. We have hi-viz vests to lend and have one or two litter pickers and hoops to lend also.

The little grey bin with black bags for your use will be on the far side of the Stork car park from Wednesday. Please either put your full bags into your own wheelie bin, or leave by the ground-standing bin half way down Worthalls Road (towards the Cricket Club), tied up at the top. Thank you very much.

REG Leaflet - Our village-wide leaflet about REG will be ready soon. Once it's printed we will need some volunteers to put them through letter boxes. Please let Gayle know if you can do some, even one street's worth would be a great help. Thank you.

REG Meeting - Our meeting in April was well attended. We had an interesting talk by the Chair of Rawtenstall Civic Pride, who told us all about the success they have had in attracting several hundred litter pickers, gardeners, and Himalayan Balsam 'bashers'. After a few years what had been a Rossendale-wide group has now split up into separate town groups.

Himalayan Balsam - I will send emails out when we think the 'beastly balsam' is big enough to pull out. For any new members, this stuff can be seen all over the place in woods, on roadside verges (eg. round Spring Wood traffic lights). It is an invasive species, not illegal like Japanese Knotweed, though it is illegal to allow it to spread from your land onto someone else's, but its many seeds are propelled in all directions up to 4m away from each plant. When it grows it shades out our native plants so that when it dies in the autumn large areas of bare earth are left, which leads to erosion of river banks etc. Not nice stuff. We have tackled it in several places during the last few summers, using the preferred method of pulling it out by the roots before seeds are viable.

Hedgehog Highways - Just to remind you that, if you have a garden, please help Hedgehogs to travel through to your neighbours' gardens too. On average Hedgehogs can roam an average distance of 2km on a single night. By cutting a D shaped hole in a wooden fence panel 13cm x 13cm you can help to extend their range, and help keep down your own slug population. I will send out more comprehensive information about how we can help the spiny creatures soon.

Thanks so much to everyone who helps us by volunteering, supporting us financially or simply by being appreciative of our efforts.

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