



Readstone
Environment
Group

Newsletter February 2024

Spring is in sight and the environment shows signs of daily changes.

Diary Dates

Come and Litter Pick a Grot Spot in the wood alongside Whalley Rd. Monday 19th February 11am. Meet at Read Hall Lodge, please car share as there isn't much room for parking. To avoid discussions please pull cars completely off the tarmac and mind the daffodils.

Bee friendly and come to the **Talk - All About Bees by Kay Coates, Thursday 22nd February 7 30pm in the Village Hall.** Everyone welcome. Bring a friend. Refreshments provided, donations welcome. And we don't sting...but do try to float like butterflies!

Plastic Free Initiative for a (Single Use) Plastic Free Read and Simonstone

This is moving along. We are really pleased that Fuzzy Duck has signed up as a business champion and Turtle Bee is also taking part. We have been back to Read PC also to confirm their support. We really hope to get this project completed well before Easter.

To help you in cutting down your use of Single Use Plastic containers when you shop why not try refilling your own containers?

An awful lot of single use plastic containers that we use for toiletry products can be replaced by say bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner. And just think how much plastic you can save by refilling your own containers with washing up liquid and other laundry products.

Turtle Bee at Great Harwood <https://www.turtlebee.co.uk> is owned by Claire Plowes who lives in the village, if you drop off containers with her she will deliver them back to your door. This service also saves money in other ways. See the website for a range environmentally friendly product a list of refillable products will be in the next newsletter with more details.

The Big Plastic Count 11th – 17th March (A Greenpeace initiative)

By counting all the plastic you throw away for a week, you can help gather the vital evidence we need to convince UK ministers, supermarkets and big brands to lead the way at global talks that could finally phase out plastic production for good.

To Sign Up - <https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up>. You will get info and a tally sheet **AND** you will be taking part in Citizen Science... for the good of us all. By the way I think the campaign must mean single use plastics as plastic has valuable uses in many areas, I will check.

How's your Carbon Literacy Knowledge? The Carbon Cost of an Email.

We all need to look at our email useage to reduce carbon emissions in a minor way. For example, according to a study by Carbon Literacy Project, a typical email has a carbon footprint of 4 grams of CO₂e, while an email with a large attachment has a carbon footprint of 50 grams of CO₂e.

"Berners-Lee estimates that globally emails accounted for *as much as 150m tonnes CO₂e in 2019*, or about 0.3% of the world's carbon footprint." (<https://carbonliteracy.com>) (of course these figures will be much higher now).

Does deleting emails help people reduce their carbon footprint?

Yes. In fact, according to The Good Planet, **if everyone around the world deleted just 10 emails (spam or not spam)**, that would save 1,725,000 gigabytes of storage space, which is around 55.2 million kilowatts of power. I am just rushing to my lap top to delete...

There are also a number of things that you can do that not only keep email volumes to a minimum, but are also beneficial to tackle the stress and anxiety that comes from email overload:

- Only subscribe to news services that you want
- Unsubscribe from mailing lists that are no longer relevant to you
- Ensure the mailing lists you use are up to date
- Write concisely and keep messages as brief as possible
- Only message those who need the information; don't copy people in simply to cover your own back

These simple and easy tactics could be good for you, as well as for the planet, and are things you can do right now from wherever you may be sitting reading this.

Save Money on your Energy Bills and reduce your Carbon Footprint

Please contact us to book a survey with the Thermal Imaging Camera in order to identify and remedy cold spots in your home. Saves ££'s and reduces global warming too. It's **free** and takes less than an hour. You choose the date and time.

Borrow our new Home Energy Kit that gives you an idea of how much each appliance costs to run, some fridge thermometers and a thermal leak detector as well as handy hints for making your home warmer. This is also **free**.

We are now taking this outside of the villages so if you have friends or relatives in our corner of NE Lancashire please let them know.

Report from Ribble Valley Climate Action Network meeting in January.

Two of us attended which was part social with excellent refreshments, part 'getting to know' other attendees (roughly 25 - 30 came, including some local parish councillors), and part discussion about the 3-year plan for RVCAN. Both of our

Green Party borough councillors, Malcolm Peplow and Gaye McCrum attended. The event leaders gave a quick presentation, making it clear that 2023 had been a good year, with much achieved, but it was important to develop the organisation. The 3 year plan has 3 main objectives: to continue to support the Climate and Emergency bill and its fundamental principles; to focus on priorities from the 2023 Ribble Valley Climate and Nature Summit; and to develop RVCAN as an effective network and engage actively with all sections of the community. The main priority of the plan, in light of the climate and nature emergencies, is to empower and support the people of the Ribble Valley (all citizens and leaders) to make positive changes; so that by working together, the Ribble Valley achieves net zero and significantly reverses the decline in nature by 2030. Following a time of discussion in small groups we were encouraged to choose one of the proposed working parties to be set up. These included working parties to develop and improve local transport; to establish regenerative farming and food; a young people's group; an RVCAN active democracy working group; and a landscape and wildlife working group. We both signed up for the latter. Penny Galpin. February 2024.

Prospects Foundation at Accrington

There are some events for children and families in the half term holidays and they are always on the look out for people to join in tree planting and other ventures which help to keep up fitness levels in the fresh air. See their website.

And hidden at the end... Membership

Unfortunately due to a rise in the insurance policy cost we had to make a decision to increase membership fees to £7 50 in 2024. We very much hope that you will be able to continue to support us and that all volunteers will become members. Our new treasurer Cath Robe Heys will be getting in touch soon.

Policies/Risk Assessments

We will be sending this all consuming glamorous reading information out to you soon for your delectation...

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[February 13th 2024](#)