



Readstone  
Environment  
Group

## Newsletter May 2024

**“Better Environment - Better Tomorrow for All”.**

**No Mow May... help the bees out! - this is a lean month for nectar and pollen.**

### Diary Dates

**REG Meeting Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 7. 30pm** – Village Hall. Speaker John Norris. A local man and new member of REG. He was recently awarded an MBE for Services to Innovation, Sustainability and International Trade. John is passionate about reducing waste materials and causing the least amount of damage to the environment. Everyone welcome, come along and bring a friend. Refreshments. Donations welcome. Raffle.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>... New to You ...** 10 - 2pm. St. John's. see more details on their website. This is a good and important thing as it's recycling clothes and helping to lessen our carbon footprint which increases when we buy new clothes.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June - Meal at The Palazzo in Burnley.** £35 (£10 to church for the much needed repairs, £120K needed.) At the same time, we can celebrate in advance our 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday – July 19<sup>th</sup> and also achieving the Plastic Free Communities Award & favourable comments from Pendleside CCA day. Please book a place with Penny via our email address. Everyone welcome. The whole restaurant is reserved for Read and Simonstone.

### **Balsam Bashing and Free Lunch – Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>**

Similar to last years Litter and Lunch event. Please book in advance, families welcome. You need to be steady on your feet and wear stout footwear and some gardening gloves, apart from that dress for the weather and bring lots of enthusiasm. Don't forget headgear and water to drink if it is hot! It should be good fun. Everyone welcome, no need to be a member.

**This is one of our contributions to Great Big Green Week**

**Lancs Climate Action Network at UCLAN June 6<sup>th</sup>.** Members of REG to attend.

**Eco Fest Accrington 8<sup>th</sup> June.** see Prospects website.

Visit to Friends of Ightenhill moved to Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> To be confirmed.

### Plastic Free Communities - Read and Simonstone

Whoo Hoo... Yay ...Yahoo...

Congratulations are in order. We have completed the criteria for the award and have achieved plastic free status for Read and Simonstone. Of course there is still a lot of single plastic saving for us all to do. However, adding allies and businesses can be done at a gradual pace now as other projects come to the fore. A massive THANKYOU to all who supported us, well done and keep up the good work.

### Gardening Group

The team continues to work hard. Bee and butterfly friendly plants and seeds have been bought with the Biodiversity grant to help beautify Worthalls Rd. Everyone is welcome to join in helping the area look nice.

### Litter Picking

This Sisyphean task continues as usual as sadly the litter bugs continue as usual too.

### Increasing Biodiversity in Read and Simonstone

#### Bee Boxes

- 8 more of these have been bought with the Biodiversity grant money. As they were on sale for half price we also bought some more for members to have a chance to buy them for £12 rather than £25. First come first served. Only 5 left. They need to go on a S or SE facing wall, not under shade or shelter. About 1.5 M above ground.

**Hedgehog Highway.** We gave all the families in the schools a template for a hedgehog doorway as we would really like to see Read and Simonstone residents helping to increase the local hedgehog population by having a hedgehog doorway in their fences. It would be good to emulate the success of Keyworth Village.

As yet no one has been in contact re our request for sightings of hedgehogs in 2024 or 2023 or hedgehog poo. **Please let us know** if you have hedgehogs near you or in your garden so that we can do some Citizen Science and draw a map of whereabouts and then we know if they have increased their numbers as a result of putting 5" square holes/gaps in our fences. As they are nocturnal animals you may

not see them about. However I am reliably informed that hedgehog poo is a good sign. Its black/very dark brown, roughly sausage shaped, 1.5-2cm long, glistens and looks almost metallic, there are other signs too. Check them out on the web.

### Nature Notes

The 'deer' that was spotted recently in the fields adjacent to Dawson Ave. may have been a dog!! Swifts are back around Hambledon View - hurrah. A barn owl has been seen near Simonstone School and a gold finch and reed buntings near Martholme Greenway. And isn't the morning and evening birdsong glorious?

### Been and Gone

We had a very warm welcome at the **Pendleside Community Climate Change Day** Barrowford on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Six of us presented a power point on how we have tried to help people reduce their carbon footprint and how we have developed as a group over the past 5 years. We had many positive comments, "Attendees couldn't fail to be impressed by all your hard work, commitment and passion..sown the seeds of inspiration for similar .. projects here".

Prof. Rick Batterbee – " Good to see how your group has diversified. Thought your presentation was brilliant".

It's very encouraging for us to receive such compliments as people did work hard on the presentation. Thankyou especially to Sue and Penny, Lynn, Alyson and Martina.

**Are you interested in Moths or a Bat Walk?** Look on Prospects of Accrington website <https://prospectsfoundation.org.uk/events/> for details. They also have **Butterfly Surveys** every Tuesday at 1pm and have lots of roles for volunteers to fill if you want to burn energy or weight off.

### Has anyone else noticed?

The **Highways litter** collection team has been busy on the M65 near our junction. Hooray and not before time and better than the 5 year interval mentioned a year or two ago!

After a journey of 250 miles last week my windscreen had quite a few **insect** 'splats' which may be good news! As in the past ten years the number of these have noticeably declined.

### And for June:

5th World Environment Day

7<sup>th</sup> World Swift Day

15<sup>th</sup>. **Great Big Green Week**

16<sup>th</sup> Clean Air Day

16<sup>th</sup> World Refill Day **to help stop plastic pollution**

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