

Treesponsibility *Newsletter*



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Hello all, and welcome to a slender edition of the treesponsibility newsletter – Volume 2, Issue 26 (it is wrapped around our snazzy new SOURCE booklet, and I did not want to exceed the postage weight limit).

Two things while I am on the subject of the newsletter:-

1. If you do not have a standing order and have not paid your subscription for a while, please send us a cheque to renew – the suggested donation is £5 unwaged, or more if you can afford it (cheques made out to treesponsibility, and sent to 10 Broughton Street, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8JY).
2. If you know anyone who has signed up to the electronic version of the newsletter and is not getting it, please ask them to get in touch. There has been a gremlin in our e-mailing list system.

Anyway, to business, and the headline for this edition is **WE WILL BE VERY BUSY IN THE NEXT PLANTING SEASON AND WILL NEED ALL THE HELP THAT WE CAN GET!!** For the past few years, getting access to planting sites has been a major constraint for us and we have just about managed to scrape 9-10,000 trees per year, but for the forthcoming season, and the next few years after that we are looking to plant at least 30,000 trees per year. This means that for every one volunteer we needed last year, we will need three going forward (particularly since the treesponsibility team are not in the first flush of youth!). Christina, our volunteer co-ordinator will need all your support.

There are various ways you can help:-

- See if you can organise a workplace awayday to come planting with us
- If your children attend local schools ask the school to contact us to arrange a planting this Autumn (years 4, 5 and 6 are best)
- Put the date of the treesponsibility gathering in your diary (see back page)
- See if you can get a team together to join us for one of our tree-planting weekends (there is a list of dates on the back page, when we have hostels booked). We are pegging the price of the weekends to £25, which covers all food and accommodation. In the past we have done “birthday weekends”, so this might be something to think about, or perhaps re-union weekends, or weekends with a particular theme. Don't worry if you do not think you could fill a whole hostel (30 or so people) – groups of 5-6 would still be helpful if you don't mind working with other groups.
- Sign up as a regular volunteer for the coming season. Send us your phone number or email address, and Christina will let you know when plantings are happening.

I am delighted to report that continued funding for the SOURCE partnership (via treesponsibility) will also enable us to do more Natural Flood Management this year. Last year we received £85,000 from the Environment Agency, and we spent this on time and on budget (see enclosed booklet). This year we have already been allocated £25,000, and we are hopeful of a further £50,000 for the Miggelden Brook Project, although this is not in the bag yet. This funding will help us to fence tree-planting sites, install attenuation ponds, pay for wildlife surveys, carry out erosion control, pull balsam in the Colden Valley, and install leaky dams in sites close to Clough Foot, with monitoring from the Slow the Flow group, and river species monitoring by Calder and Colne Rivers Trust. So as you can see, things are not looking too shabby....

...except in the wider context! I am writing this on the day after President Trump has pulled out of the climate treaty, and we still have major challenges to face here in the UK, with a major struggle ahead to put the brakes on the fracking industry (see opposite).

Hope to see you soon, (perhaps at Preston New Road for my birthday breakfast!)
x Dongria



Since Cuadrilla began building a fracking pad at Preston New Road near Blackpool in January 2017, people have been at the roadside every day, putting their bodies on the line to stop this toxic industry. The resistance is working – supply chain companies are pulling out and the building schedule has been delayed by months.

This summer, as Cuadrilla gets nearer to trying to drill, Reclaim the Power is joining the frontline struggle in Lancashire to support and reinforce the amazing local resistance. We invite you to join.

To sign up, visit <https://reclaimthepower.org.uk/fracking/>

For the month of July, we'll be providing training, resources, and support to take creative action against Cuadrilla and the fracking supply chain. We will help continue to halt their work in its tracks and fight for a clean, safe, affordable energy system for everyone across the UK.

Whether you're part of an action group already, or you're new to taking action and want to test things out, there's roles for everyone, and support to take part. Whether you can come for 2 days or 2 weeks, whether you can chop veg, brew tea or take action – this resistance movement needs you, and we'll be lending our support to local activity however we can. In the meantime, if you can get to Preston New Road sooner, then there are daily protests happening already.

Treesponsibility is supporting the campaign against the fracking industry, and we are planning to take a minibus to Preston Road, leaving Hebden Bridge early in the morning on Friday 28th July, which just happens to be my birthday. I could not think of a better location for a birthday breakfast picnic. If you would like to book a place in the mini-bus please drop us an email and we will put you on the list.

Some Interesting News.... An item on the EU website, posted in April

Nature: Commission calls on the UNITED KINGDOM to protect blanket bog habitats

The Commission is urging the United Kingdom to stop burning blanket bog habitats within upland Natura 2000 sites in England and to take measures to restore the damaged habitats. Blanket bogs are considered to be priority habitats under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) when they are active (i.e. non-degraded), and their conservation status in England is seriously declining. For a number of years, the UK authorities allowed the damaging practice of burning blanket bogs within the English Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), without the appropriate assessment required by the Habitats Directive. The Commission warned the United Kingdom of those breaches of the Habitats Directive in a letter of formal notice sent in April 2016. As the burning of blanket bog habitats within the protected sites still continues, a final warning is now sent. The UK has two months to provide a response; otherwise, the case may be referred to the Court of Justice of the EU.

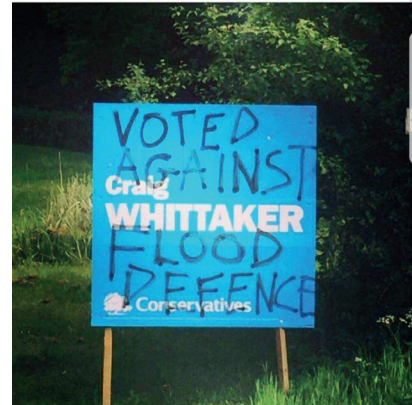
Craig Whitaker and Flooding...

My daughter recently sent me a photo she had seen on facebook, of a Craig Whitaker election sign so I decided to fact check it.

The motion he voted against just a fortnight after the Calder Valley floods was:

That this House

- *extends its sympathy* to all those affected by recent floods and its gratitude to the emergency services, armed forces and volunteers who rallied round to help afflicted communities over the holiday period;
- *notes* the damage the Chancellor of the Exchequer's cuts, which the National Audit Office estimates amounted to 10 per cent over the course of the last Parliament, excluding emergency funding, have caused to these communities;
- *notes* that by delaying or cutting new flood defence projects or neglecting maintenance of existing flood defences, the Government has failed to protect these communities;
- *notes* with concern the recent decision by the Scottish Government to impose a six per cent cut on funding to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency;
- *believes* that there has been a dismal lack of action by the Cabinet Committee set up after the floods of 2013-14 and questions the effectiveness of the newly-created Cabinet Committee under the same leadership;
- *further believes* that the UK needs a long-term plan which includes a complete rethink of flood defences, as proposed by the Environment Agency, measures to make homes, communities and infrastructure more flood resilient and a greater focus on flood prevention, particularly through uplands and water catchment management; and
- *calls on the Government* to commit to the figure that the Environment Agency said in 2014 was required to protect communities of £800 million per year on maintenance and strengthening of flood defences and to carry out an urgent, independent, public review of flood policy.



Diary Dates

20th to 23rd October. Treeresponsibility Gathering, Hebden Hey. All welcome

24th - 26th November Hebden Hey open for groups to book

1st to 3rd December Hebden Hey open for groups to book

2nd to 4th February 2018 Woodcraft Folk (tbc) – everyone welcome to join the plantings on Saturday and Sunday

9th - 11th Feb Tom Bell open for groups to book

23rd- 25th Height Gate open for groups to book

9th - 11th March Height Gate. Treeresponsibility 20th Birthday Weekend. All Welcome.

6th - 8th April GAPS Weekend (tbc) – everyone welcome to join the plantings on Saturday and Sunday

20th -22nd April Tom Bell - open for groups to book