



UPPER STOODLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

USRA Newsletter

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1-3 | The Big Balsam Bash and why | 6 | February Flooding |
| 4 | Loneliness Event | 7 | Broadband Update |
| 5 | Spring Clean & Litter Picks | 7 | Photographic Competition |
| 5 | New Litter Bins | 8 | Dates for the Diary |
| 6 | Second AED Update | | |

“Balsam Bashing”

Thursday 4 June 10 am - 1 pm and Saturday 6 June 12 pm - 3 pm

There are a number of places within our area where Himalayan balsam is already a problem and we are organising some balsam bashing events this year to try and stop the spread of this invasive weed. To help people understand what Himalayan balsam is and why it is a problem we have provided some information below.



We have agreed a couple dates in early June to tackle specific areas where we know there is a problem but we need lots of people to help us if we are going to make a real impact. If you can join us on either date, even if it's just for an hour please do come along.

Please contact Carol at usreasecretary@gmail.com or 01706 814935 if you are able to join us so we have some idea of numbers prior to the day.



Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan balsam

A non-native invasive plant. It is a relative of the busy Lizzie but grows up to 3.0m high from seed in a single season. Himalayan balsam is a major weed problem as it grows rapidly and spreads quickly smothering other vegetation as it goes. Due to the explosive nature of the seeds many drop into water and contaminate land and river banks downstream, but it can spread upstream too.

Habitat

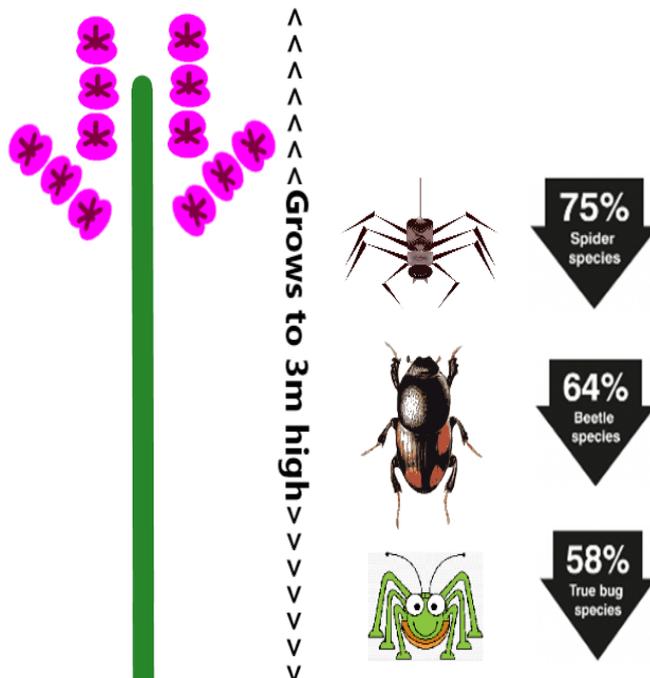
Commonly found along riverbanks and streams, around ponds and lakes, in wet woodlands, wasteland and in ditches and damp meadows but can also invade gardens.

What is the problem?

Himalayan balsam colonises areas rapidly and quickly outcompetes the surrounding vegetation and reduces diversity. It is an annual plant; growing from seed, flowering and setting seed within a year before dying. Annual plants do not have the need for extensive root systems and are shallow-rooted.

Himalayan Balsam and its impact on UK invertebrates

Cost of control £300m Pods explode seeds up to 7m Seeds per plant 800



Detremental to ground dwelling invertebrates such as Detritivores, Herbivores and Predators

Underground invertebrates Detritivores, largely unaffected. In the summer months numbers significantly increase.



What is the problem? (cont'd)

As Himalayan balsam grows very rapidly it needs readily available access to soil moisture which is why it has colonised river banks which have an abundance of moisture and nutrients. This causes a problem because it is crowding out perennial plants that bind the river banks with their root systems and during flood events the river banks are then vulnerable to flood water.

Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds. These are dispersed widely as the ripe seedpods shoot their seeds up 7 m (22ft) away.

They remain viable for two years and are commonly transported in waterways. It produces a lot of pollen over a prolonged season and is attractive to pollinating insects. There is concern that its presence may therefore result in decreased pollination for other native plants.

It is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in England and Wales which means it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow these species in the wild.

Removing Himalayan balsam

Himalayan balsam can be dealt with by cutting or pulling before it sets seed and this should generally be done by the end of June. Cutting it early can result in rapid regrowth of new stems that will flower and set seed and cutting above the lowest leaves stimulates the axillary buds to regrow so pulling plants up is generally the best option. As the plant is shallow rooted it is easily pulled up.

The approach to removal is not technical, it simply takes lots of people getting stuck in to pull the plants out by the roots. The recommended means of disposal is to leave plants on the ground - preferably where they are growing and not on paths or roadways - to rot down or, if seeds are present to burn them. If control is undertaken early enough to prevent flowering then eradication is possible in two or three years but it does require persistence.



Looking forward to seeing you at the 'Big Bash' Events

on :- Thursday 4 June 10 am - 1 pm and

Saturday 6 June 12 pm - 3 pm



Loneliness Event

Tuesday 31 March 2020, 12.30 pm- 3.00pm at the Top Brink Inn



Unfortunately the Loneliness event we had planned for February had to be postponed because of the weather and storm Ciara.

We now have a new date and it will take place on:

Tuesday 31 March 2020, 12.30 pm- 3.00pm at the Top Brink Inn.

If you are interested in helping to find ways in which we can help overcome loneliness in our community please come and join Bev Frain, Project Manager, and Jackie Crewe, Community Development Officer from Community First Yorkshire, who are already tackling loneliness across North Yorkshire. Together we can explore the causes, characteristics and consequences of loneliness in our community and start to explore some local solutions.

THE EVENT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE RESIDENT IN THE UPPER STOODLEY AREA.

Please contact Carol at usrasecretary@gmail.com or 01706 814935 to let her know if you are planning to attend so we can make sure we have enough room.



Spring Clean & Litter picks

We are organising two more litter picks on:

**Saturday 4 April 12 pm - 3 pm and
Thursday 9 April 10 am - 1 pm**

Having done litter picks last spring and autumn we have noticed litter building up again in the usual spots down Shaw Wood Road and Causeway Wood/Woodhouse Road. There are other bits of litter noticed in other areas too and we will cover as much of the area as possible depending on how many people turn out each day.

A number of residents have commented on the state of our road signs and benches in the area so we are going to try and give these a clean up as well.

If you think you could help us with any of this, even if you can only spare an hour, please get in touch so we have some idea of numbers prior to the day. Please email Carol at usrasecretary@gmail.com or 01706 814935.



... and new litter bins

Our recent application for a Calderdale Ward Forum Grant was successful and we were awarded the maximum £500 towards the cost of two additional litter bins to be sited in the Harvelin Park area. With this money plus some very generous donations from a few residents we have now purchased the bins and are awaiting delivery.

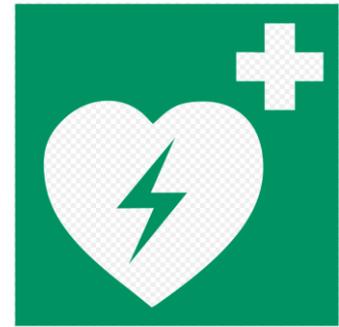
Calderdale MBC have agreed to install the bins for us and ensure they are emptied as part of their regular collections in the area.

The agreed sites for the bins are at the bottom of Broadgate (by the junction of Lee Bottom Road and Rossendale View) and at the other end of Lee Bottom Road at the bottom of the road leading to Moorland View and Fellside.

We hope this will help us to keep litter down in an area which is well used by residents and visitors, but which has hitherto been not very well served by bins.



Second AED



The second AED is now ordered from The British Heart Foundation and is expected to be delivered very soon.

Following the recent fundraising event of "Soup and roll" hosted by Andrea at Rossendale View we have now reached the required total to purchase the cabinet for the AED and arrange for installation. Well done Andrea and a big thank you!

Hopefully by the time you read this the second AED will be in place to cover the Harvelin Park area. It is to be sited on the garden wall of 21 Harvelin Park facing onto Lee Bottom Road and will be in an unlocked cabinet available to anyone who needs it.

February flooding – Storms Ciara and Dennis

We have had a number of residents reporting Flooding issues that they experienced during the recent bad weather mainly linked to surface water run off and existing drains not being able to cope with the volume.

In some cases improvements such as clearing drainage ditches seem to have caused new issues elsewhere.

Clearly we cannot stop the water running down off the hills so we need to look at what can be done to build flood resilience for the areas and properties affected.

In order to be able to assess the bigger picture we would like to gather as much information as possible from all residents about specific flooding issues they experienced. We can then collate all these details and consult with the relevant officers at Calderdale MBC to agree what alleviation and resilience measures are required to improve the situation for everyone.

Please contact Carol at usrasecretary@gmail.com or 01706 814935 and let her know if you had any problems during the February flooding.





Broadband Update *by Trevor Davis*

Openreach has enabled the Harvelin Park, Stoodley Grange and Mankinholes areas for fibre-to-the-premise (FTTP) broadband access. The work was completed on schedule prior to the New Year. A number of residents have already ordered and received their service and are achieving download speeds of up to 330Mb/s, depending upon the service purchased. There are still a limited number of suppliers, with the most popular being BT. A search online for FTTP supplies will provide a complete list. The following address can also be used.

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fttp-providers>

If you are unsure whether your property is able to receive the service, the Openreach site has an availability checker, available at the following address.

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband>

There are a small number of properties in these areas that are outside of the reach of the fibre. There is no short-term solution to this. We propose to contact the West Yorkshire broadband authority to see if there is an appeals process. Enquiries with Openreach have not been forthcoming.



Lumbutts Rollout

The first phase of the Lumbutts rollout is scheduled to start on 23 March. There will be a road closure from 8am to 5pm for five days from this date, after which residents at the following addresses will be able to order FTTP.

2, 4 & 6 Jack Lee Gate	Croft Farm
2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14a & 15 Croft Carr	Croft Gate West
Causeway Farm, Causeway West & Causeway Barn	Croft Gate East
Lower Horsewood Cottage	Croft Barn

The extent of the road closure is illustrated in the above diagram.

The remainder of Lumbutts is scheduled to be enabled in June. The delay is due to a land owner needing their land to dry out sufficiently before allowing BT access to their field.



Photo competition: 'The character of Upper Stoodley'

We are pleased to launch a digital photography competition to help highlight our beautiful and characterful area as well as to raise money for general funds!

The competition is open to anyone resident in the Upper Stoodley area (exact details of the membership area are given on our website www.usra.org.uk/about-us).

Entry costs £2 which can either be paid via PayPal on the website (<http://usra.org.uk/donate>) or in cash to any member of the committee. Please use your surname as a PayPal reference. Once you have paid £2 you can submit up to 5 photographs for consideration.

Photographs must be in a standard digital format and should be sent to usraphotos@gmail.com with your name and email address clearly shown. Please do not use digital manipulation techniques but you may use enhancements e.g., to remove spots or scratches.

Photos must be of something characteristic of the area covered by the Residents' Association though for the purposes of the competition photos may include Langfield Common and Stoodley Pike.

In submitting photos, you are confirming that any people in the photos have given their consent to the photo and its use by USRA. Photos must not include anyone under 18.

In submitting photos, you confirm that USRA has the right to use, publish and fundraise without charge or other obligation using your photos, but that you, the photographer, may also use the photo for your own purposes as well

Shortlisting will be done by a small independent panel led by Michelle O'Gorman, an expert amateur photographer; shortlisted photographs will be published on the USRA website. The shortlisters' selection of photos will be final. Shortlisted photos will include any title given by the photographer as well as the photographer's name.

The winning photo will be decided by vote on the website and voting will be open to all website visitors. If there is a tie, the judges will have the casting vote.



Photo competition: (Cont'd)



The winner will receive a professionally printed and framed and copy of their photo.

Photos should be submitted to usraphotos@gmail.com
by 5pm on Easter Monday, 13 April 2020.

We regret that we cannot accept analogue photos.

In submitting a photo you consent to all of these conditions.

Good luck and happy photographing!



DATES FOR THE DIARY

LONELINESS EVENT

TOP BRINK INN
12:30PM-3PM ON TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 2020

OPENREACH ROAD CLOSURE

8AM – 5PM FOR 5 DAYS
COMMENCING 23RD MARCH 2020

PHOTO COMPETITION

LAST SUBMISSION DATE
5PM ON TUESDAY 13TH APRIL 2020

SPRING CLEAN & LITTER PICK 1

12PM-3PM ON SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 2020

SPRING CLEAN & LITTER PICK 2

10AM-1PM ON THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2020

BALSAM BASH 1

10AM-1PM ON THURSDAY 4TH JUNE 2020

BALSAM BASH 2

12PM-3PM ON SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2020

USRA GENERAL MEETINGS IN 2020

TOP BRINK (BACK ROOM)
7.30PM
WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL 2020
THURSDAY 16TH JULY 2020
TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2020

CONTACT DETAILS

The officers of the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association can be contacted as follows:

Chris O'Gorman, Chair: usrachair@gmail.com

Carol Cantral, Secretary: usrasecretary@gmail.com

Martin Ashton, Treasurer: usratreasurer@gmail.com

General enquiries, information of interest to the Residents' Association and applications