



UPPER STOODLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

USRA Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6

April 2021

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Spring Has Sprung

Welcome to this Spring edition of the newsletter of the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association. On behalf of the Committee and membership of the Association, I hope that you and your family and friends are well, and coping as best as possible with the ongoing implications of the pandemic and the restrictions that we continue to face.

No one knows exactly how the next few weeks and months will work out, and we could go backwards as well as forwards. However, our Committee has decided to plan on the basis of the scenarios presented by the Government's lockdown 'roadmap'. This means that we are pencilling in events and activities over the next few months which are consistent with the arrangements for lifting lockdown but which can, if it becomes necessary, be cancelled or amended.





In the main body of the newsletter you will find details of

- Litter picking events
- Social events
- Organised walks
- Updates

Membership

If you are reading this newsletter and you are not already a member of the Association, why not join? Membership is £5 per year per household (the subscription year runs January to December). In return you get regular information updates about issues affecting our area, a vote at general meetings including the AGM, invitations to membership events, and the knowledge that your subscription gets put to local causes that benefit everyone, such as environmental improvement, tackling loneliness and social isolation, and building good communications through digital and non-digital means.

If you would like to become a member there is a form available on the internet at <https://usra.org.uk/joining-usra> or you can write a cheque to USRA and send it to Andrea Ransom, Treasurer, USRA, 14 Rossendale View, Todmorden, OL14 6HN. Or you can pay by internet transfer online to sort code 40-39-01, a/c number 62091240 - please use your name and reason for payment as reference, e.g. Smith, SUBS.

You will be made very welcome!

Every best wish

Chris O'Gorman
Chair



Litter Picks

We tried to organise litter picks a number of times in the last year and had to cancel them due to lockdown restrictions; However, assuming that the current restrictions will be lifted as planned in the next few weeks the proposed dates are:

- Thursday 15 April 10.30 am - 12.20 pm
- Saturday 24 April 11.00 am - 1.00 pm
- Thursday 29 April 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm



As it has been some considerable time since we have been able to do any litter picks there is a lot of litter out there to be picked up!! There are considerable amounts in the usual spots down Shaw Wood Road, and Causeway Wood/Woodhouse Road as well as roadside areas where vehicles regularly park. We will cover as much of the area as possible depending on how many people turn out each day.

We will of course need to organise volunteers into groups of no more than 6 people and everyone will be required to maintain social distancing unless they are from the same household or support bubble. If we have enough people for more than one group we will cover different areas.

People will need to bring their own gloves but hi-vis vests and litter pickers will be provided which will be sanitised before and after use. We will also provide hand sanitiser.

We have completed a risk assessment, which is available on request and it will be sent out to all volunteers prior to the event.



If you think you could help us with this, even if you can only spare an hour, please get in touch so we know the numbers prior to the day. Please email Carol at usrasecretary@gmail.com or ring 01706 614620. **(Please note the new number)**



Improving Roadside Verges and Unregistered/Unattended areas

We are looking at improving an area of roadside verge on Mankinholes Bank by the bench but are currently working with Calderdale MBC to determine how we can stop vehicles parking on it. There is already cow parsley and buttercups in the area as well as snowdrops and daffodils which have been planted in the past. We intend to rake the area in August to scrape off the grass to expose the soil and sow yellow rattle to inhibit the grass growth and encourage the existing species to thrive. We will then look at adding in other species such as ox eye daisies, some more spring bulbs and primroses and perhaps hedgerow plants such as ladies bedstraw, hawks bit, digitalis, knapweed etc.

We are also looking at the unregistered and untended area on Lee Bottom Road that runs either side of Manor Close. The suggestion is to improve the existing muddy path on the top of the bank and the steps at one end and clear the existing vegetation and plant up with some more spring bulbs. The intention is that we will get a contractor to do the initial work and apply for funding to cover this cost with the on-going maintenance of the area being done by local residents.



Social Events

Most of us have experienced some form of social isolation and loneliness during the last twelve months as the coronavirus restrictions have, of course, prevented us from carrying on with our everyday social contacts that up till then, many of us had taken for granted. For other people though, loneliness and social isolation may have been part of their lives well before Covid-19. Distance from or absence of, family and friends, physical disability, mental health problems, practical issues about getting out – these are all things that can contribute to feeling lonely and being cut off from others, never mind the coronavirus.

Some of us were able to take part in some training earlier this year which we had been kindly funded for by Calderdale Council but which, for the obvious reasons, had taken a long time to organise. We were introduced to the distinctions between loneliness and social isolation, and we explored the impact of loneliness on people's lives, their health and wellbeing.

- Loneliness is a subjective state where we experience negative feelings associated with insufficient meaningful interaction with other people. This means that you can be lonely in a crowd *or* you can live on your own and not be lonely at all: everyone's experience of loneliness is different, and everyone has different needs and expectations with regard to 'meaningful interaction' with others.
- Social isolation is an objective state where we have no or minimal contact with other people. This means that a socially isolated person has no services coming to them, and has little or no interaction with the wider world. As a result, they might be vulnerable and at risk, e.g., of neglect, but they may, or may not be, subjectively lonely. Think of individual people who live 'off grid' – they may be socially isolated (by choice) but definitely not lonely.

We also did some work to identify local 'assets' such as buildings, people and activities, which may contribute to reducing loneliness where it exists. And finally, we did some planning about activities and events we could arrange that might help tackle loneliness and social isolation.

Following the training, we are now planning a series of social events which are open to everyone in our area, whether or not you are a member of the Residents' Association. Everyone is welcome!



Caffine Mornings (to include us tea drinkers...tea hee)

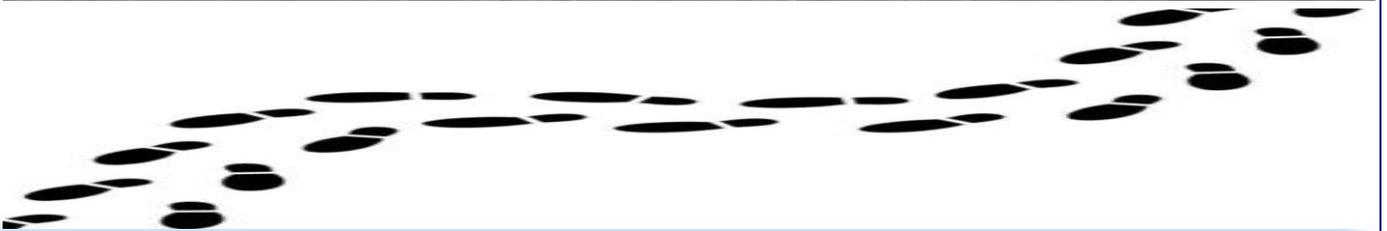


Coffee Mornings

10am-12noon, Tuesday 25th May
10am-12noon, Thursday 17th June
10am-12noon, Saturday 17th July

Coffee mornings will take place at The Top Brink Inn, Brink Top, Lumbutts, OL14 6JB by kind permission of Martin Ashton.

Good quality coffee and tea will be available, priced per cup or pot. The pub will open officially at 12noon and you are welcome to stay on for lunch if you want to.



Guided Walks

2.00-4.00pm, Tuesday 25th May
2.00-4.00pm, Thursday 17th June
2.00-4.00pm, Saturday 17th July

A series of guided walks of different levels of challenge (easy to reasonably easy!) up to approximately 3 miles, led by Simon Large and Simone Denning.

Meet in the car park of The Top Brink Inn, Brink Top, Lumbutts, OL14 6JB (car parking available on Mankinholes Bank, near the Methodist Chapel).

For more information of routes, distances, severity etc. please ring Carol Cantral on 01706 614620 (Please note the new number) or at usrasecretary@gmail.com



Further Social Events

The Residents' Association hopes to arrange further social events over the year so if you have an idea, or would like to organise an event, please let Carol Cantral know on 01706 614620 (Please note the new number) or at usrasecretary@gmail.com

Loneliness Survey

FINALLY regarding events, we know that these might not appeal to everyone so we are undertaking a survey of all of our residents to try to find out a bit more about loneliness in our patch. The survey is included with this newsletter and is anonymous.

We would be very grateful to you if you filled it in – the more information we have, the better we can serve you!

Full details are found on the survey included with this newsletter, which can also be downloaded from www.usra.org.uk/documents. The deadline for submitting the survey is 30 April 2021.



Updates...



Gaddings Dam

Anyone who has walked, ridden, cycled or driven past The Shepherd's Rest will have spotted the new signage that has been created by Todmorden Town Council to provide important information to visitors to Gaddings Dam especially those who arrive by car to park on Lumbutts Road.

The aims of the signage were to put onto one notice all the key information that visitors need to know to keep safe, to enjoy their visit and to show respect to residents and to the beautiful environment in which Gaddings Dam is situated.

The signage was paid for by the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association, using two grants specifically given to us for the purpose, one from Todmorden Town Council and one from the Calder Ward Forum (Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council). We are very grateful to these two bodies for the grant awards, and we hope that the new signs will have a positive impact for everyone over the coming months.



Shaw Wood Canal Bridge Repair

The canal bridge was damaged in the floods of July 2013 - over 7 years ago and scaffolding was put in place to allow continued use of the bridge. Since then discussions have been ongoing between officers at Calderdale MBC and the Canal and River Trust to try and agree how the bridge should be repaired. We were advised in May 2019 that agreement had been reached and that the work was planned to go ahead in February/March 2020 but we were subsequently told that a full bat survey was required which could not be done until April 2020.

The latest information we now have is that Canal and River Trust wanted amendments to the bridge design which has escalated the costs and these additional costs have not been agreed by Calderdale MBC. Talks are currently ongoing between Calderdale MBC and Canal and River Trust and we will continue to chase them for progress.

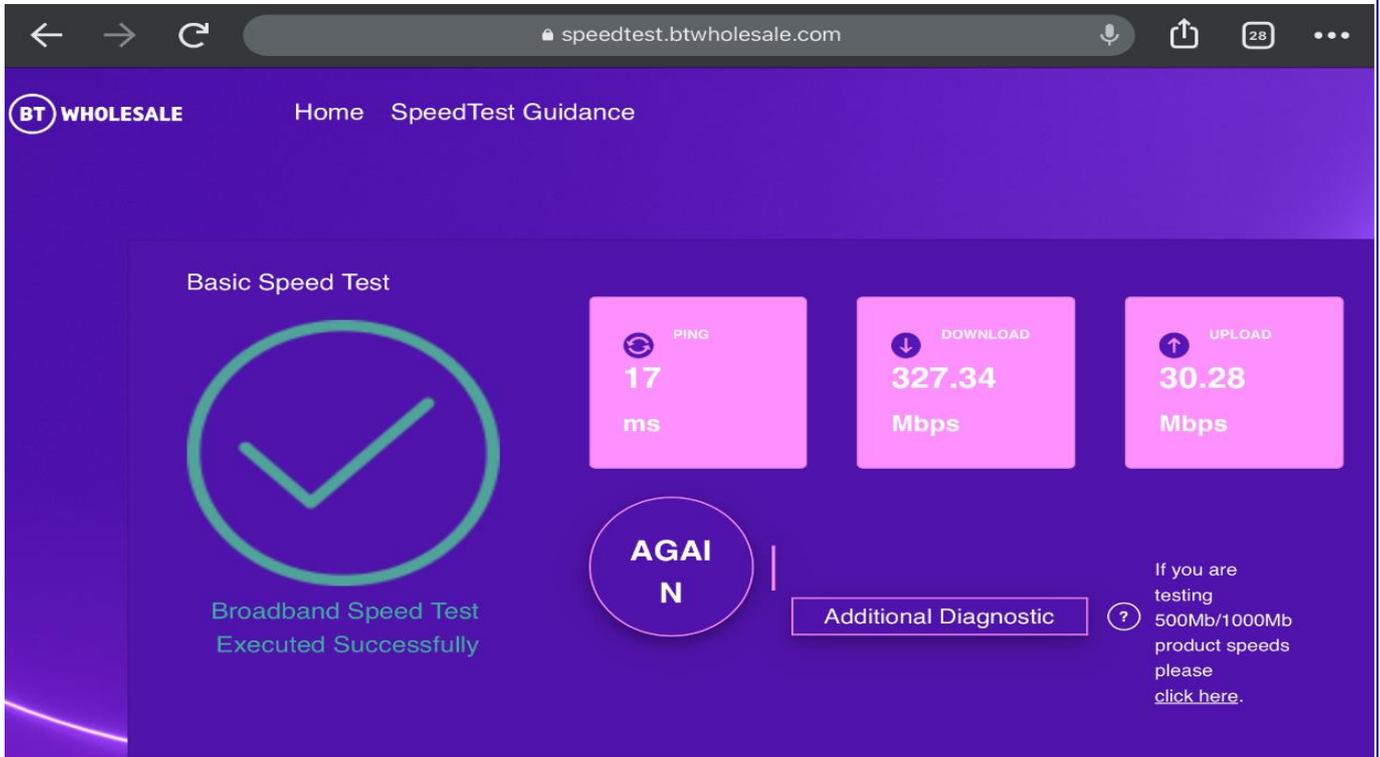


Fielden Little Dam Repair

Following the flooding in summer 2019 officers from Calderdale MBC decided that the wall of Fielden little dam was in danger of collapsing and undertook emergency repairs to prevent this from happening. The resulting condition of the wall is very unsightly and needs to be repaired. We understand that the landowner is still awaiting a cost from the council's contractor to do these repairs and we have written to the Chief Executive of Calderdale MBC requesting his support to move the repair on.



Broadband Bliss Descends on Lumbutts



WOW !!!! - Final Phase of FTTP Completed in Lumbutts

After what has been a long wait and a number of delays the final phase of the rollout of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) in Lumbutts is now completed and went live week commencing 15 March. Judging by the number of Openreach vehicles in the area last week many residents have already upgraded to the new faster and reliable service!!

The above speed test results for one newly upgraded resident are truly impressive!!!





Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group

The Upper Stoodley Residents' Association is a member of the Mutual Aid Network Calderdale which has been set up by Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Alliance Calderdale, supported by Calderdale Council, to provide support to organisations like ourselves which offer to support to local people during the pandemic.

There are lots of good ideas for everyone on the Mutual Aid Network's website, as well as news about mutual aid groups across the valley and the whole metropolitan borough area:
<https://communityresponsecalderdale.org.uk>

USRA STATEMENTS AND CONTACT DETAILS

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is important to everyone and is a priority for the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association. Our safeguarding policy is on our website and any safeguarding concerns may be raised with our safeguarding lead, Martin Ashton, on 07736 483248 or deputy safeguarding lead, Michelle O'Gorman, on 07789 483286.

PRIVACY

Upper Stoodley Residents' Association has a privacy notice on our website at <http://usra.org.uk/privacy-policy> and this will guide our approach to supporting residents during the Covid-19 emergency.

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

Andrea Ransom, Treasurer: usra.andrearansom@gmail.com

General enquiries, information of interest to the Residents' Association and applications for membership should be addressed to the Secretary.

Covid-19 help or volunteer email upperstoodley@gmail.com

USRA Website www.usra.org.uk