

COMMUNITY - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



October 2016

PURPLE4POLIO CROCUS BULB PLANTING: RODNEY HUGGINS AWARD 2016/7: OVO ENERGY OFFERS 250,000 FREE TREES: ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND IDEAS FOR CLUBS

PURPLE4POLIO CROCUS BULB PLANTING

There is an excellent guide on the RIBI web site for those who have not planted crocus bulbs before.

Many Clubs have taken up the challenge, but now have the practical job of planting the bulbs they have. Try and involve children if you can and get as much publicity as possible. The bulbs should be planted in October or no later than mid-November,



**DO NOT FORGET
WORLD POLIO DAY
IS ON THE 24
OCTOBER**

RODNEY HUGGINS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Entries for the 2017 Rodney Huggins Award need to be sent in **NOT LATER THAN 31 JANUARY 2017.**

Entry forms can be found on the RIBI web site under Environment. As before there are three categories, Rotary, Schools & Youth Groups (with Rotary involvement) and International.



This year there will be no financial rewards, but there will be a replica of the trophy for the overall winner, the trophy itself being held for 1 year and is presented at the RIBI Conference. Winners of the other categories will be presented with Certificates. Original ideas have the best chance of winning, and the project should either have been completed or ongoing. We have had some entries in the past for projects which have not actually started and which were therefore considered premature. For more details please contact Rodney on ROD2H@aol.com



OVO ENERGY & THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS OFFERS 250,000 FREE TREES!

OVO Energy and TCV have just launched their 'I DIG TREES 2016/2017' project with free trees available from November for planting out this bare root season.

Last year several Rotary Clubs took advantage of this offer when 158,000 trees were planted by various organisations. This year even more trees are available. Thanks to OVO Energy, all trees available through TCV are free. They are native UK broad leaf and are supplied with protective stakes and spiral guards.

There is a hedgerow pack as well as four other mixed packs so that you can best choose the most suitable for the space you have available.

Packs come in 50s with 10 each of 5 different varieties covering Parkland (Oak, Lime, Beech, Silver Birch and Hornbeam), Large Garden, Small Garden, and Wildlife & Shrubs (Blackthorn, Guelder Rose, Hawthorn, Common Dogwood and Goat Willow).

Please note that this offer does not extend to Ireland.

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
NOW AT
www.tcv.org.uk/community/i-dig-trees**

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BICYCLE RECYCLING

This is one of the easiest projects for Clubs to do, as it does not cost anything apart from the occasional bit of petrol. Have you ever noticed at your amenity tip that there are often several bicycles being thrown away into the skip? What a waste when they can be recycled and used by someone in need, perhaps in Africa.



The main and first requirement is to find somewhere where up to 50/60 bicycles can be stored pending collection. It also helps if Club members who have a trailer or a large car into which one or two bicycles can be placed are prepared to participate in the scheme by collecting bicycles from those unable to bring them to a collection point.

You might like to do a pilot scheme with a local school, using their car park as a collection point, providing you then have a lorry to transport the bikes to your store. Bikes can be brought by parents coming to collect their children after school or perhaps arrange

with the school for the car park to be open at a weekend. See the Rotary Leaflet on the RIBI web site for where the bicycles go and who will collect them, but you need a minimum of 30/40 bikes to make their journey worthwhile.

CARBON EMISSIONS OFFSET WITH TREES

We all emit between 12 and 14 tonnes of carbon each year depending on our life style. Should we not take responsibility for this by finding a means of offsetting our emissions or at least part of them (e.g. car, holidays etc)? Another aspect is our place of work and also our Rotary Club (e.g. where we meet, getting there etc).



An easy way to offset our emissions is by planting trees. For the last 10 years my own Club, the Rotary Club of Harrogate, have been planting trees, including a 4 acre Rotary Centenary Wood, and also planting in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Our aim there is to plant 25,000

trees and we are now about 2/3rd of the way.

Unlike a lot of schemes the trees are relatively cheap as we plant British Native Hardwoods on land donated by local farmers where bracken has taken over and made land useless for grazing. Volunteers then plant the trees and the farmer pays the VAT, so the cost works out at just under £2.50 per tree including supporting stake and protective sleeve. Individual donations can be gift aided increasing the amount by 25%, so an annual gift of £50 plus Gift Aid would buy 25 trees!

There is a more detailed leaflet on the RIBI web site, plus a calculator to show the cost of offsetting car emissions.

CARBON REDUCTION FOR INDIVIDUALS

This leaflet shows several easy ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint



One Club I know got its members to agree to take on three of the suggestions and monitored them over a 12 month period with each member of their Environment Committee being responsible for 5 other members of the Club.