

ERA – Eco Rother Action

An independent climate change response group
for the villages between Petersfield and Midhurst
<https://ecorotheraction.org/>



Report for Rogate's Annual Parish Meeting 2024

ERA is very happy to now have battery collection containers in 4 churches in the local area, including the one at Rogate. Dead batteries are a fire hazard if mistakenly put into either our general waste bins or our recycling bins but can be taken to any shop which sells more than a minimum number of batteries, about one packet per day. Many of us do a good job of collecting our spent batteries at home, but then forget to actually take them in to a shop so that they can get recycled. According to the Cancer Research UK website, 'Batteries contain toxic chemicals and metals, including lead, mercury, zinc and lithium, that can pollute the environment. Many of these elements can be safely extracted and reused in new batteries, lighting, and more.' So, recycling them is important.

It would be even better to use rechargeable batteries or rechargeable items, all of which are now readily available to purchase.

ERA is happy to take your batteries and to pass them on to Cancer Research UK who make a small amount of money from getting them recycled.

Our containers have gone into different church porches at different times, so a straight comparison is not really fair, but nevertheless Rogate is currently way out in front!

Rogate – 18.08Kg

Trotton – 7.59Kg

Buriton – 7.50Kg

Stedham – 2.00Kg

Please note, ERA is also looking for volunteers for 2 local projects. Having carried out our own river surveys for over 18 months we are delighted that the Arun and Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT) has now set up a whole catchment (Rother and Arun) river monitoring scheme which we have transferred over to. This project remains in need of more citizen scientists to carry out these surveys, which take about 20 minutes to complete and ideally would be done at the same spot once a month.

Secondly, ERA was involved in pulling out Himalayan Balsam, an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in several local sites last year and will continue to do this in June and July this year. By then the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) may well have their proposed project for managing INNS along the River Rother up and running, and this work, again to be carried out by volunteers, may well then come under their remit. If not, ERA will continue with this work as we did last year.

We would be delighted to hear from anybody from Rogate who would like to be involved with either of the volunteering opportunities outlined above.

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