

SteYning For Trees

Help Fight Climate Change



Welcome to our April 2023 Newsletter

You have been sent this newsletter as you are signed up to receive emails from SteYning For Trees. If you want to stop receiving these emails please contact us using the email address at the end of this newsletter.

We are now enjoying the lovely but also vital blossom on our over 80 trees on verges and 15 newly planted wildlife corridor



Picture credit: SFT

hedges. Vital for our pollinators so say the [Woodland Trust](#) in their **Spring 2023** magazine. **Native trees** play a **crucial role for pollinators**, which means not only butterflies and bees but hoverflies, wasps, moths, beetles and anything that visits plants to drink nectar.

"There is **something orchestral** about the way **blossom bursts**", says the **Trust's conservationist Sally Bavin**, "because trees have evolved to **stagger their flowering** to chime with the emergence of different



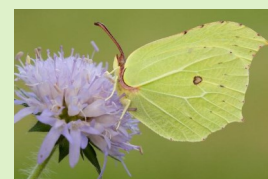
Picture credit: SFT

pollinators. **Blackthorn** strikes up in Feb to give the **groggy queen bees** **their first sweet sip**. It blooms through to April, so it's perfect for **over-wintering butterflies** like the comma, small tortoiseshell and **brimstone**.



Picture credit: SFT/Jon Brook

April's **wild cherry** - closely followed by **crab apple** - as the next tranche of **moths, beetles and butterflies** **shake a leg**. Then boom - we rise to a crescendo: May



Picture credit: SFT/Jon Brook

when **hedgerows explode with blousy hawthorn, rowan erupts in creamy clouds** and fruit **trees flush frothy pink**. That percussion is the peak of the year - it's **all so thrumming and alive**.

But as **more blossom dates shift forward**, it's easy to see how other trees and plants could creep out of sync. **The more specialised the species, the more perilous.**"

They mention **not planting trees with candyfloss style double petalled blooms**. Problem is each extra petal comes at the expense of the nectaries, the nectar-bearing parts of the flower. **For pollinators they're a dud.**



They **need more volunteer recorders** for [Nature's Calendar](#) . Please sign up.

Thank you so much to Ellie Coutts of Greenwood for making a [blog](#) about our tree planting at St. Mary's House, Bramber. [Greenwood](#) is one of the largest tree and plant suppliers in the UK and Ellie is related to one of our committee members. She has been **extremely helpful** and supplied us with **native whips** to plant as hedges this year. These do seem to be growing as you can see from the picture, despite the **terrible planting conditions** we have had this year. Well done **our tree planting volunteers** for coming out in all weathers.



Picture credit: SFT

Do remember to contact us if you would **like a tree planted on the verge** near you. **SFT** are happy to pay the major amount of costs for these although a **donation** is always welcome. Great to have **even more blossom for bees and pollinators in Steyning**. The majority of verges are owned by [WSCC](#) so we are able to access their excellent scheme which **guarantees maintenance**.

We are glad that so many **other communities are becoming keen to plant trees** for their residents and we are often **contacted for advice** about how we started, funding etc. **Good luck** particularly to **Henfield** in their efforts for more tree planting. **The Lord Lieutenant's Award** was specifically to **encourage tree and hedge planting throughout West Sussex**, we are so glad that **Steyning for Trees** efforts are taking root. Many thanks to the Parish Council for their support.

SFT were **very pleased to be invited to Knepp** for the launch of the **Weald to Waves Mapathon**. The task of the Mapathon is to build up a **detailed map of all the managed greenspace** within the **10000 hectares** of the Weald to Waves **wildlife recovery corridor**. If you want to be **involved** in future Mapathon meetings **then please get in touch with SFT** or **directly with the [Weald to Waves](#) project**.



In **2021-22 the Woodland Trust** made an **unparalleled impact for nature, people and the climate**. They spent **£40.3m on creating new woodland** and planting trees; **£18.1m restoring ancient woodland**; **£16.1m protecting woods and trees**. We hope to have a **talk given by them** in the Autumn.

Remember: Trees are front-line warriors in the fight against climate change.

If you have any enquiries or suggestions please,

Email us at SteyningForTrees@gmail.com

or visit our website at steyningfortrees.com

or ring us on 01903 816726

Any donations, large or small, will be greatly appreciated and will assist in enabling us to continue our important work. Please make any contributions to the bank account below.

Steyning For Trees, Sort code: 53 61 43

Account no: 68132085

Reference: 'Your Surname'

And finally, if you want to unsubscribe from these Newsletters, then please get in touch via our email address:

SteyningForTrees@gmail.com