

Steyning For Trees

Help Fight Climate Change



Welcome to our March 2024 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.

Many thanks to those of you **who live on higher ground and have been asking for trees and hedges** to be planted there. This is of tremendous help to those who live at the lower levels who **have been experiencing flooding**. We have all seen the pictures of the flooding at the Star Inn a few weeks back. We all know Steyning is bowl-shaped so it is **important to plant on higher ground to prevent run-off**, as well as **lower down to absorb the water** there. This is something that **SFT** have been working very hard to do.

Trees and hedges are well known to be **a vital tool in preventing and controlling flood water**. This is predicted to be an **increasing problem with extreme weather** conditions being caused by global warming. The Environment Agency says **flood risk could double by 2055**. We are so pleased that **Richard Goring and the Wiston Estate** are so conscious of this. They are **planting a one-kilometre-long hedge** at the top of Mouse Lane and **have asked SFT to help**.



Picture credit: geograph.org.uk/Mike Faherty

We have already helped with the long hedge planted on the **Steyning Downland Scheme (SDS)** last year. We transferred the hedging plants ordered for another site to **SDS** with the help of their Project Manager; they were **planted by Steyning Grammar School pupils**. Our **wonderful SFT volunteers** were again at work before Christmas, despite difficult conditions under foot, **gapping up this long hedge** with tree whips provided by us.



Picture credit: geograph.org.uk

After conversations with **Richard Goring** before Christmas we were delighted when he told us that **he has commissioned a consultation on additional methods to control flooding** such as the possibility of **holding ponds, sluice gates etc.** in the Mouse Lane area. He was letting the PC know.

We have been told that the Government say they are going to **restore 30,000 miles of hedgerow by 2037 and 45,000 by 2050**. Let's hope that's quick enough for our **endangered species!**



Pictured here the Woodland Trust printing paper which you can buy from **SteYning Stationers**. Sales of this contribute to its valuable work as **the UK`s leading conservation charity**.

We were glad to be able to help Ronnie Reed **refresh an old hedge** by giving her **some tree whips to plant**, all helping the cause. **Also** giving Louise Crush some of our **surplus whips** - we know that she will give them a good home.

SFT is so **pleased to be supporting** the [SteYning Festival](#). We are involved in **four events** our **main one** being our **talk to be given by Dame Eleanor Jane Milner-Gulland, Professor of Biodiversity at Oxford University**. This will be held at **Wiston House** on the evening of **Saturday 1st June**. EJ is Chair of, or involved in, many **UK and international environmental committees**. She was a pupil at SteYning Grammar School and was taught by David Buckett, SFT co-chair. Maybe some of you knew her?

She will be **talking about the [saiga antelope](#)** which **she saved from extinction**, and reasons to be optimistic about the fight to save **biodiversity**. She and the antelope **were featured in the television programme** hosted by David Attenborough, Planet Earth II and III.

EJ said in **National Geographic** "The Saiga Antelope population plummeted by more than 90% in a short time. For starters saiga horn had great value in the Far East as part of traditional medicine. But the great thing about saiga is that the local people really love it. To them it is a symbol of the wild steppe, of independence and freedom."



Picture credit: Flickr/Jgor Shpilevok

A headline read, "Floppy-nosed antelope has baby boom raising hope for endangered species". That hope was realised, but they are kept **on the endangered list** because of their **vulnerability**.

We don't think it would win a beauty competition but it is quite cute.! Well done Professor EJ.



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.

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