

Steyning For Trees

Help Fight Climate Change



Welcome to our September 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.

Come to our stall at the **Farmer's Market** in **Steyning** on **5th October** where we will be giving away **free trees** (paid for by **SFT**) for you to plant in your garden.



Butterfly numbers are badly down this year so we have decided to **boost their food plants** in Steyning asking you to **"Create a Nectar Cafe in Your Garden"**. We are giving away a selection of Butterfly Bushes (Buddleia Davidii). This is totally non allergenic (source Arizona University). This is why it is a **top nectar source** for bees and butterflies and a **valuable addition to gardens**. **5 different colours** for you to choose. Buddleias can be pruned hard once they are established, so can be grown as a shrub or fully grown tree.

We will also **give away** some **hollies** to encourage the Holly Blue butterfly to your garden, plus **marjoram** (origanum), a great **perennial pollinator** and useful herb.

We are asking Steyning Parish Council for permission to **lay the hedge** we have planted at Abbey Road. The hedge has to be grown tall, not cut just this once, so it can be bent over to weave into the hedge. After laying, the hedge will only be **2-3 FEET HIGH WITH GAPS**, and can be kept cut to 3ft or whatever height residents want. This is a **traditional craft** used for centuries to thicken hedges. This will be **highly beneficial for wildlife**, particularly providing sites for nesting birds, and giving increased cover at the bottom of the hedge. It will **enhance the look** of this lovely area to have a traditionally laid hedge. **SFT** is happy to pay for this work which will considerably **benefit nature and the community**.



In the latest [Weald to Waves](#) newsletter they say how **Wildlife Corridor hedges** provide benefits locally, but are integral to the larger Weald to Waves corridor, creating **essential links** between habitats and allowing species to move and disperse across a fragmented landscape, therefore **bolstering resilience** and continuity of **local ecosystems**.

We hope some of you managed to get across to [Gravetye Manor](#) on a Thursday 9 - 11am for a **free visit** to the home of the Victorian gardener **William Robinson**, father of **wildlife gardening**. We did, it was **stunning**, a fabulously curated selection of flowering plants, perennials, and annuals, exotic trees and shrubs creating an amazing spectacle, as well as its walled circular vegetable and cutting garden for the hotel. They are starting to cut back their extensive areas of **wild flower meadows** and long grass such a **boon for nature**.



WILLIAM ROBINSON
GRAVETYE CHARITY

We are doing the same in our **rewilded garden** as seeds are now set. We leave the cut grass a few days for seeds to drop so they can germinate for next year. Then rake it up to **keep fertility low** as needed by wild plants. We are sad to see these go, such a joy to see most of our grass areas covered in wild flowers, with a consequential **increase in slow worms, bees and butterflies**. These have increased here, but smaller, even though it has been a bad year nationwide. We now have established butterfly bushes and lots of marjoram, wild flowers everywhere. So not much work to do as **nature does it for us**, what a **joy** to live amongst it. The butterfly charities have asked us all to **leave any plants still flowering**, to feed up our overwintering butterflies before they go into hibernation.

In the latest [Sussex Wildlife Trust](#) newsletter (15th Aug) Lydia Baxter's article "Bless this Mess" says that **untidy natural processes are good for wildlife** and shares tips on making our gardens more messy.



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

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25th September 2024