

Steyning For Trees Help Fight Climate Change



Welcome to our October 2024 Newsletter

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Thank you to all who came to our Stall at the Farmer's Market and took away over 80 plants specifically aimed at helping to halt the **decline in butterfly numbers** which has been happening for so many years. This year, as you know, has been especially bad. The annual garden butterfly count **dropped to 7 from 12**; a very **steep decline**.

All the plants are great for **pollinators**, providing nectar and food plus shelter. The **Buddleia** are totally non-allergenic (source Arizona University) which is why it is so sought after by butterflies and bees, hence its name the **Butterfly Bush**. Prune it hard after it is established if you don't want it to get too leggy. It is pretty tough!

HEDGE LAYING

We are hoping next year to be **laying the first hedge** we planted at Abbey Road if the Parish Council gives us permission. **SFT** will be paying for this work which will considerably **aid nature recovery** in this area; laid hedges provide much better nesting sites for birds. This is an **ancient craft**, Caesar mentioned woven hedges 2,000 years ago.

The hedge needs to be tall at the moment, during laying it is bent horizontally so there's plenty to weave in and out. Thus **creating a thicker, more lasting structure**. When you bend a branch horizontally shoots grow stronger vertically, hence the increased **protection for birds**. After laying it will be less than 3ft high and can be kept to any height.



Nature Recovery around Steyning

We are so pleased to be working with an ever-growing number of **landowners and farmers, large and small**, who understand the importance of **supporting endangered species** that are part of our eco-system providing a better **future** for them and us. We will be helping Angela and Liam plant a long hedge on their land, developing it as yet another **haven for wildlife**. These areas are so valuable, such as Shona Halsall's family field, with more **varied trees** supporting a greater number of species; plus **disease-resistant elms**. Mark Stenning's wonderful Broadbourne egg farm, (Delicious eggs!). Another hedge here, plus planting some goat willow, host plant to the **Purple Emperor** butterfly, the UK's largest. Small leaved limes, *Acer campestre* etc. Helping him develop his pond already **abuzz with dragonflies and damselflies**; plus another disease-resistant elm he already has one of ours growing so well. The Catholic Church, another hedge, completing the third side surrounding their land. Our wonderful **volunteers** have been busy looking after the hedges (**wildlife corridors**) already planted. Cutting back the competing grass round these varied plants including **blackthorn** which is a host plant to the **Brown Hairstreak** butterfly. Our maintenance work is considerable now, but will tail off as the hedges become established.



STOP PRESS

If you are interested in a **TREE ON YOUR VERGE** for next year, just email us at SteyningForTrees@gmail.com



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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