



Welcome to our December 2020 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.

1000 NEW TREES FOR STEYNING – Are we there yet?

Despite an AMAZING COMMUNITY EFFORT we must report that we are not quite there yet. Because of the second lockdown and now the Tier 2 restrictions we have only managed to get 950 Trees planted so far. However, SFT have plans to see the extra 50 into the ground as soon as possible – see below.

THANK YOU so much for all your words of delight and support over the appearance of the LOVELY TREES ON THE VERGES around Steyning. All the new trees have been very well planted by the WSCC contractors. The only downside is that some of the soil is not great, but we know the teams of residents in the seven roads will look after them well, including watering them over the summer with recycled water.



New trees planted in Newham Lane



New trees planted at Penlands Way/Ingram Road

This has been a great community “coming together” in each road and many thanks are due to the initiators who have encouraged their neighbours to choose their tree, donate,

and be involved in the positioning. We now have over 50 residents involved. We also have 18 trees on the waiting list for next year and are now busily fundraising, from charities and the public, as SFT needs to pay an average of two thirds of the £150 costs to WSCC.

These trees will provide shade and beauty when walking for generations to come and as Darren Moorcroft (CEO Woodland Trust) says, they are "literally the air we breathe".

HEDGEROW AND TREE PLANTING

Many thanks to our excellent volunteer hedgerow and tree planters from the community who, under the expert guidance of Dave Buckett, have planted all the 60cm whips. They have all been put into the ground using a T-cut technique to help minimise carbon-capture loss and disturbance to the soil.



Hedgerow planting just off King's Barn Lane. The site for the new copse is in the background of this view, just in front of the bridge.

Until now we have been using a variety of the Woodland Trust tree packs [including Wild Harvest, Plant for Pollinators, Wildlife, and Fruit and Nut Mix], but for **the last 50 trees of our first 1000** we will be using a Wild Wood tree pack which is suitable for wet areas. This new copse will be planted just off King's Barn Lane on Shona And Richard Halsall's land where we have already put in 90 hedgerow trees.

Enormous thanks are due to private landowners and the Parish Council who are not only taking trees onto their land but donating funds to us as well. Collectively these plantings are a great contribution to Steyning's wildlife corridors firming up the one coming from Steyning Centre, across Abbey Road, over/under the by-pass, through a field there, onto Shona & Richard's land and finally out to the countryside via King's Barn Lane.

LOCAL NEWS

It has been said that the best time to plant a tree was 30 years ago but the second-best time is NOW so it's good to hear that, funded by Sussex Giving who gave to SFT last year, the Sompting Estate - www.somptingestate.com - have planted 7,000 hedgerow plants.

Staying with local news, we thought you might like to know about an online event happening in January. The Friends of the South Downs - friendsofthesouthdowns.org.uk - have arranged a Zoom Online Talk on Tuesday January 19th 2021 at 7:30 pm with Charlie Burrell talking about the Knepp Castle Estate Wilding project. The cost is only £5.00 with the money being shared between the Friends of the South Downs and Knepp. [Please click here to register for this event.](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

We expect many of you will have watched the excellent BBC Countryfile programme on Sunday 29th November encouraging everyone to plant trees to counteract the effects of Global Warming. The programme can still be watched on the BBC iPlayer. The plan is to plant 750000 trees across the UK, 1 for every child starting school this year. Some of the trees will go on to National Trust land. They wanted everyone to report how many trees they have been planting so STEYNING FOR TREES will be doing just that.

On a national, or perhaps global, scale there is an interesting podcast available from the Green Alliance, 'Making it count COP26. The challenge for Glasgow' - www.green-alliance.org.uk/COP - where Belinda Gordon talks to Ed Miliband about the importance of the conference and what it needs to achieve.

Clearly there is plenty to be positive about and many thanks are due to all the organisations and individuals who help us by donating money as well as giving us their time. We can all do our bit to fight this crisis facing the world.

**A HAPPY AND HOPEFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
FROM ALL AT STEYNING FOR TREES.**

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 steyningsociety.org.uk/steyning-for-trees/

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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10th December 2020