

Steyning For Trees Help Fight Climate Change



Welcome to our January 2021 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.

A Happy New Year to you all, and an enormous thank you to everyone who has donated in 2020, including those who have committed to give annually. A regular income helps us in planning future planting.

We have now managed to plant the disease resistant Elm Tree at Abbey Road. This tree was donated to us by the South Downs National Park as part of the programme to repopulate the UK with this iconic tree. 60 million trees were lost to Dutch Elm disease as we reported in an earlier newsletter.

Simon Zec, Tree Warden, (poet laureate of Steyning) and SFT committee member, planted the tree at Abbey Road assisted by Louis Thacker on a rather wet day.



Picture credit: Steyning For Trees

As reported in the December newsletter we had hoped to plant another 50 -60 saplings as a small wood on Shona and Richard's land this month but we have delayed the project because of the new lockdown [and the more positive prospect of imminent vaccinations]. We still hope to get the saplings into the ground before the end of the planting season at the end of February.

Beyond that we have plenty of plans to plant more hedgerows and trees in the next planting season that will open up again in October.

Also as we said in the December newsletter we have reported the number of trees planted by SFT to the BBC Countryfile programme website to help with their drive to plant more trees throughout the UK. We have entered SFT for their ballot to plant trees with the presenters at one of their locations.

We expect many of you will have heard Margaret Attwood, the author and keen environmentalist, as a guest editor of BBC Radio 4's Today programme on 29th December during which she interviewed both Greta Thunberg and Prince Charles. He talked about his concerns as far back as the 1960s when so many trees were being cut down and hedges being grubbed out. This all helped to lead to the catastrophic decline in bio-diversity and the consequences for carbon and pollution capture that we are all now trying to reverse.



You can hear highlights of the programme here: bbc.co.uk/radio4/today

In December we were invited by the Woodland Trust to join a Zoom meeting with CEO Darren Moorcroft. He talked about their work trying to mitigate the effects of the HS2 rail project, about holding them to account, and advising them on tunnelling and ways to save as much woodland as possible, including ancient woodland.



You can read more about HS2 and the Woodland Trust here: woodlandtrust.org.uk/HS2

On a more cheerful note I expect many of you have heard about the Woodland Trust's project in this area, on the Lost Woods of the Lower Weald and Downs. The aim is to bring back to life 400 km² of woodland, including ancient woodland between Pulborough and Lewes, where the tree cover has become fragmented and degraded.



You can read more here: woodlandtrust.org.uk/lost-woods or here ruralsussex.org.uk/lost-woods

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.

Steyning For Trees, Sort code: 53 61 43;

Account no: 68132085;

Reference: 'Your Surname'

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HAPPY PLANTING IN 2021.