

# Steyning For Trees Help Fight Climate Change



## Welcome to our May 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.

### **Steyning Farmers' Market on Saturday 1st May 9.00am**

**Please do come and join us**



Picture credit: Pixabay

And also **PLEASE do enter our PHOTO COMPETITION**, closing date **30th APRIL**, for the best picture of our WSCC trees on the verges planted in and around Steyning. There are 6 on the triangle between Penlands Rise and Ingram Road, 1 in Ingram Road, 7 on Newham Lane, 5 in De Braose Way, and 1 each on The Ridings and Coombe Drove.

**THE PRIZE?** - a free tree of your choice, on a verge of your choice, in Steyning or Bramber, plus a certificate to be presented at the **FARMERS' MARKET**. There will be a separate prize for under-18s.

Please send entries to our email, [SteyningForTrees@gmail.com](mailto:SteyningForTrees@gmail.com)

We **are delighted** to let you know that **David Buckett** has agreed to become **co-chair**, with Jo Gordon, for **Steyning For Trees**. He is on the committee of so many Steyning organisations including the steering group of the **Steyning Downland Scheme**. His dedication to the environment and Steyning is well known, so many of you know him, and maybe were taught by him. We and our volunteer tree-planters enjoy his ex-pupils coming up to us when we are out planting to have a chat and see what we are doing.

He is very keen to plant hedges for wildlife corridors and has taught us all about how, where and what to plant in the different habitats and the importance of trying to reverse the catastrophic decline in species partly because so many hedges have been lost.



Picture credit: SFT

We are very grateful to **Neil Hulme**, Sussex's own national butterfly expert for his advice around the [brimstone butterfly](#). Buckthorn is a host plant for this beautiful butterfly and at Neil's request we have been planting this in our hedging wildlife corridors.



Neil Hulme has been a [Butterfly Conservation](#) adviser since 1997 but his passion for butterflies extends back to the 1960s. He is a member of the [Knepp Castle Estate](#) Wildland Advisory Group and leads Purple Emperor Safaris there every July. He works closely with the SDNPA, WSCC, local conservation groups, landowners and farmers in improving habitats for butterflies across the county. His endeavours have been recognised with awards and he has been the main driving force in [preventing the extinction](#) of the Duke of Burgundy butterfly in Sussex.

The brimstone is one of the most easily recognised and widely appreciated of our butterflies. After a run of warm and sunny days in February the awakening from hibernation of the first sulphur-yellow adult males are a sign that spring is drawing nearer. Later in the spring the much paler, greenish-white females emerge from their hibernation and the mating cycle begins. Eggs are laid typically on **Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn** growing in warm, fully sunny locations. After the necessary stages of maturation the new brood of butterflies emerge in late July or August. They then feed voraciously, usually on purple-petalled flowers, before finding a hibernation site usually within the dense foliage of ivy, holly or beneath the leaves of bramble where the torpid butterfly is rendered almost invisible by the superb leaf-like camouflage.



**A limited number of Buckthorn saplings will be available to buy at Steyning Farmers' Market on Saturday 1st May.**

All Picture credits: Neil Hulme

### **Get to know the SFT Committee**

Our committee member this month is **Mary McFarlane**, a committed amateur gardener, whom many of you will know well.

I have been organising the Steyning U3A garden group for some time and at the moment we have nearly 50 members. We usually start the year with our AGM where the members put forward their ideas for the programme. This is then followed by either a quiz or we sometimes have a speaker. We enjoy visits to support both the NGS Gardens Scheme and other local gardens not usually open to the public. We also have plant sales and visit members gardens. We have supported Steyning In Bloom and raised money for several charities. We always end the year with a lunch at a local restaurant.

I am looking forward to seeing some new trees planted on the small green in Newham Close, Steyning so as to enjoy the spring blossom and autumn colour and also to help attract more insects and birds to the area but most of all because every tree that we plant helps fight the damaging effects of climate change. On the green at the moment there is single ash tree which might soon succumb to Ash Dieback or old age.

Some of you have maybe read [news articles](#) on **woodland decline** and how it could scupper climate targets. The [Woodland Trust](#) says our woods are facing a barrage of threats. Although tree cover is increasing across the country the current rate of tree planting must **quadruple** and must also include a higher proportion of native trees and shrubs as most of the new saplings are non-native species. **Steining For Trees** are keen to avoid this mistake so we only buy our trees from the Woodland Trust and other reputable sources.



Only 7% of the UK's native woodland is in good condition so we are very grateful for the Woodland Trust's '[Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs](#)' scheme. This is looking to improve the woodland from Pulborough to Lewis and is supported by Fran Corney from [Action in Rural Sussex](#) who helped us at our most recent tree-planting day at Kings Barn Lane.



Taking orders for **TREES ON VERGES**, our scheme with WSCC, is in full swing. We already have over 20 orders for local roads, but we have room for plenty more so if you would like one for your verge too please contact us or come to the **Steining Farmers' Market** on **Saturday 1st May** and sign up. WSCC are having to increase their costs next year, but have kindly managed to hold the price for SFT for this year.

We are grateful to all our donors, including the [Wilson Memorial Trust](#), the [SDNPA](#), and [Sussex Community Foundation](#) for making all our tree-planting possible.

**Paul Hannam**, of [Greening Steining](#), has reminded us of this lovely and inspiring short [YouTube](#) video showing two men's shared commitment to planting trees around their village in China- **do please watch**. It shows what can be achieved.

**APPLE Inc** has launched its [Restore Fund](#) (£145m), to invest in **forestry projects** aiming to remove a million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide annually from the atmosphere, as part of its effort to become carbon neutral across the company by 2030.

The next [Green Books](#) event from [Greening Steining](#) is on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm** when Chris Goodall will talk about his latest book, '**What We Need to Do Now for a Zero Carbon Future**'. The event is online, and **free**, but you will need to [book a place](#) to be sent the Zoom link.

## **Remember: Trees are front-line warriors in the fight against climate change.**

If you have any enquiries or suggestions please email us at [SteiningForTrees@gmail.com](mailto:SteiningForTrees@gmail.com) or visit our website at [steiningsociety.org.uk/steining-for-trees](http://steiningsociety.org.uk/steining-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.**

**Steining For Trees, Sort code: 53 61 43;**

**Account no: 68132085;**

**Reference: 'Your Surname'**

And finally, if you want to **unsubscribe** from these Newsletters, then please get in touch via our email address: [SteiningForTrees@gmail.com](mailto:SteiningForTrees@gmail.com)