

Welcome to our October 2025 Newsletter

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DO COME AND SEE US AT THE STEYNING FARMERS MARKET GIVE AWAY OF TREES AND SHRUBS TO PROVIDE BERRIES FOR BIRDS TO FEED ON DURING THE WINTER—SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER

After the enthusiastic response we had last year when **SFT** gave out **free trees** and **plants** to support **butterflies**, we are going to do the same this year to provide **food for birds**. We will be **giving away shrubs and small trees** with **berries**, **hips** and **haws** and **nuts** plus early spring pollen to help birds to make it through the winter in good condition to start breeding in the spring. **SFT** has to pay for these so a **donation** is always most welcome.

Due to the hot, dry summer we have seen a considerable rise in the number of insects, mostly good for the birds but unfortunately not always for us. More flies, mosquitos etc are reproducing more often. We need to protect the birds to eat and ward them off.



USEFUL PLANTS FOR BIRDS TO FEED ON DURING THE WINTER:

Hips of Rosa Rugosa and other hips and haws

Ivy berries ripen later in the winter when food is scarce



Teasel seeds (Dipsacus)



a favourite of the Gold Finch.



And don't forget fallen apples, blackbirds so love them.

Purple Emperor Butterflies moving North

There have been **sightings** of these butterflies even **further north** due to **climate change**. They were spotted in Bretby and Aston-on-Trent last year. This summer they have been spotted in Ticknell further north. They can be seen at **Knepp** at the right time of year, high up in the trees. A **wonderful sight** being the **UK's largest butterfly**.



A new National Nature Reserve will protect Hazel Dormice

Hazel Dormice numbers have **declined by 70%** since year 2000 according to the **People's Trust for Endangered Species**. **Habitat loss** and **degradation**, **poor**



management of woodland and hedgerows, and climate change are the biggest contributors to their decline in the UK. The <u>Stiperstones Landscape Reserve</u> in Shropshire will conserve habitat for them. It is part of the King's Series of National Nature Reserves to honour King Charles III.

SFT are working hard to help the **Steyning Festival Committee** find some interesting, well-known, **expert environmental speakers** for the **2026 Festival**. We are lucky enough to have **Dame EJ Milner-Gulland**, Prof. of Biodiversity at Oxford Univ. coming to speak again. As you know she grew up here and was educated at SGS. She gave us such a **fascinating talk** last time.



SFT have also been **very lucky** to have secured **Peter Owen Jones** who writes regularly in the Sussex Life. He has just written an article called **"A HEDGE'S TALE"** all about the advantages of **hedges/wildlife corridors** which is what we do. Peter has done many **fascinating documentaries** for the **BBC** including one on the South Downs National Park.

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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26th September 2025