

Steyning For Trees Help Fight Climate Change



Welcome to our March 2026 Newsletter

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Let's listen to the message from **Dame Prof. E. J. Milner-Gulland**, being **positive about nature** and **biodiversity** locally. She is coming to **talk to us** again at the [Steyning Festival](#) about local people having their say about what happens where they live.

Her talk is in the **Penfold Hall on Saturday, 23rd May at 7.30pm**. She was a pupil at Steyning Grammar School and now not only is she **Professor of Biodiversity** at Oxford University but represents the UK on many **international committees** on **climate change**.



Looking at the Positives:

This year has brought a number of **rare** sightings in Sussex, including a red-tailed shrike.

- A **Caspian Tern**, the **world's largest tern**, was seen at Rye Harbour. Let's hope their petition we all signed against the plastic bio-beads works. They escaped from Southern Waters Treatment works and so devastated SWT at Rye Harbour.

- Good news for **butterfly** lovers, one of the UK's rarest, the **Wood White**, has reappeared in several locations in Wales.

- Conservationists have been rearing **new orchids**, which were propagated at Kew Garden's laboratory and planted them into former haunts.



These are the **positives** and show species can recover with help but, unfortunately, the abundance of **individual species** studied in the UK has **declined** by an average of **19%** since 1970 whilst nearly 1-in-6 species are threatened with extinction.

We are part of this eco-system, what happens to us if they all go!

Operation Turtle Dove

Advisers are helping farmers in Sussex and the South East to recreate the **right conditions** for these **beleaguered** birds. Derek Crush still has them nesting on his farm in the summer. At the moment they are out there enjoying the **sunshine** in South Africa. Thanks to so many they now have a **fighting chance** in this country. With guidance on the **hedges** they need, **high, untidy, protective** and with Old Man's Beard (clematis), **pond** and a **food source**.



Did you see on the BBC NEWS?



An announcement that one of England's most **beautiful** landscapes, the **South Downs National Park** has a major new **strategy plan**, its Partnership Management Plan focussing on **nature, climate** and placemaking. It will be a place of **hope** for nature, **restoring 3,300 hectares** by increasing its tree canopy, etc.

Come and see **Peter Owen Jones' film**, made for the **BBC** about the Park which we all know and love. The **Penfold Hall, Tuesday 26th May, 6.30pm** for the **Steyping Festival** by **SFT**.



HEDGEHOGS HINTS

Drains: Keep drain holes **covered**: this stops both leaves and hedgehogs blocking the drain. **Check** uncovered **drains**, bean **trenches**, **holes** for footings etc. and garage **inspection pits** daily to make sure no hedgehogs are trapped. Provide **escape routes** if possible eg. a plank with batons.

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

If you have any enquiries or suggestions please,

Email us at SteypingForTrees@gmail.com

or visit our website at steypingfortrees.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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