

Steyning For Trees Help Fight Climate Change



Welcome to our July 2023 Newsletter

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On the **Steyning in Bloom** open day on 25th June **Katie Parker** our **new committee member**, (of [Sussex Wildlife Trust](#)), showed you all the work that **SFT** has done to **rewild Shooting Field Green**



Picture credit: SFT



Picture credit: SFT

at the request of the residents. We have **planted mini copses** and **trees to support diverse species**, designed by David Buckett our co-chair. We know many of you were taught all things environmental by him at Steyning Grammar School.



Yes, its official "**the hottest June on record**". As the [Wildlife Trust](#) says "**Nature is being pounded by extreme weather.**" I expect some of you are aware that the **newly planted trees** at Canons Way have been showing **signs of stress**. Thanks to those who notified us, we were already on the case. Our watering contractor had come out to show us how **difficult the access** had

become. The grass had not been cut recently by WSCC.

We gathered **our wonderful volunteers** together and **many thanks to Cllr. Simon Alexander** who came and helped us. **Access paths were cut**, the **trees were mulched**, and we have been **watering regularly**. The contractors came watering and putting down some magic mix and **fingers crossed there are signs of green**. We won't know for certain that they are saved till next spring. WSCC are obliged to replace them under their planting scheme, particularly as they were selected by them.

Well done everyone who has been doing a **wonderful job watering their trees** on the verges. We only use contractors in larger planted areas where there is no one specific "verger", but I know **many of you help us** there too, also looking after neighbours trees when they are away. **Great community spirit working together for the good of the planet.**



Picture credit: SFT



We arranged for [Steyning and District U3A Natural History Group](#) to visit **Iping and Stedham Common** with **Neil Hulme** to see the **Silver Studded Blue butterfly** so we were pleased that [Springwatch](#) was also featuring this rare butterfly. They talked about its symbiotic relationship with black ants.



Picture credit: Neil Hulme



Dr Darren Moorcroft of the [Woodland Trust](#) speaking again on the [Today](#) programme was saying **only half of the government tree target is being planted**. He repeated that the UK has the **fewest trees in Europe**. He feels there is not enough **investment** in Nurseries and talked about the difficulties **to establish seedlings** with increasing risk of **prolonged droughts**.

We are certainly finding fewer saplings available.

The [Woodland Trust](#) says a **£1bn five-year plan** is needed to **save England's ancient forests**, which are more polluted, damaged and contain less wildlife than at any point in history.



Michael Blencowe, the well known **Sussex naturalist and author**, has offered to **do a talk for SFT** entitled '**The Wonderful Wildlife of the Lost Woods**'. This is concerned with preserving older woodland. This will be on **Monday 9th Oct in the Steyning Centre at 7.30**.

Michael, as many of you know, **is an excellent, amusing and knowledgeable speaker**.



The **Countryside Charity (CPRE)** are co-hosting a [Countryside Day Out](#) at **Knepp** on **Saturday 2nd Sept**. It is to **celebrate** Knepp Estate's new **Wilding Cafe and Shop** and **Sussex CPRE's 50th Anniversary**. The [Woodland Trust](#) has a stall.



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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