



Welcome to our January 2026 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.

SFT are so glad to see in the National Press the wonderful heading "**PARK BEATS 100,000 TREE TARGET**", referring to the **SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK** [Trees for the Downs](#) Scheme.

Although not all of our now **11,000 hedging trees** planted have been in the PARK, a fair proportion have been over the 6 years.

HELP US TO #RENATURE  Many **CONGRATULATIONS** to all who work at **SOUTH DOWNS** SDNPA. We are very proud to be partly funded **NATIONAL PARK** by them.



Our **work with landowners** is continuing apace. We find and plant hedges, giving **support** and **advice on increasing biodiversity** here; what a great and dedicated crowd they are. Now over 20 places, forming a **wonderful mosaic for wildlife**, to spread their genes out from the excellent Steyning Downland Scheme into the surrounding countryside.

STYNING FESTIVAL TEA AND TREES TOUR

SFT are working with the Steyning Festival Team on **our Tree Tour 30th May, 2026, 3 - 7pm** where you will be able to see them. You can go by bike, car or on

foot to see **these hidden gems** in and around Steyning. Situated in lovely parts of our town in beautiful settings, with nature and hedges being nurtured to **increase biodiversity**. As well as tea at Mouse Cottage. Come and sit in **our re-natured garden**, or conservatory, providing a home for wildlife now including **hedgehogs**. We can't guarantee that they will appear for you but it is a **haven for wildlife** as well as the lovely flowering plants that have always been here. Hopefully the **damselflies** and **dragonflies** that breed in the pond here, will, if it is warm enough, make an appearance. **Something to look forward to.**





Our hedge/wildlife corridor planting is continuing apace, a **wonderful wide hedge** at the Bowls Club increasing the different types of hedge plants with a better chance of supporting **endangered** species. No longer a monoculture so disease will not rip through it. A hedge near the river in Bramber. It will when it reaches maturity **suck up flood water** as well as providing another wide hedge to **shelter nature**. The owners are so dedicated to increasing **biodiversity**.

An **additional wildlife corridor/hedge** at [St Columba](#) has been planted with help from **SFT** ensuring that area of the Downs is well covered. **SFT** paid for the last one. But this one is now part of the SDNPA [Trees for the Downs](#) Scheme and has been provided by them but planted by **SFT** and St. Columba.

Also we have been helping the Steyning Grammar School by ordering and advising on the **right tree mixture** for their 420 free hedge plants, selected by **SFT**, donated by the Woodland Trust and **helping** them and their teachers plant it. We are donating the recycled canes and spirals as we saw a **deer** there. We were so **pleased** to see **so many students and parents** (23) coming on the Sunday at short notice; it was re-arranged from the wet Saturday. **Many thanks** to Jayne Michalska, Wellbeing Mentor, Outdoor Learning. They quickly grasped the idea of how and why we were planting. Some of the students asking very **pertinent questions** of the SFT team who managed to answer these keen young people.

The LNR [Strategy for Nature Recovery](#) has completed its consultation phase; what a **wonderful scheme** it is supporting **endangered** species. It is nationwide with particular areas chosen, East and West Sussex are included. Hopefully this will cheer up Chris Packham. **SFT** is certainly **very keen to help** as we are already doing this, we have the **expertise** with 3 ecologists and a volunteer with a zoology degree on our team.

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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6th January 2026