Welcome to our February 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.

BBC Two's Winterwatch 2021 have been emphasising the importance of biodiversity for wellbeing.

Listen to their ***Soundscapes for Wellbeing*** - bbc.co.uk/2021/soundscapes-for-wellbeing - and fill in the questionnaire about how you feel before and after.

Picture credits: Main picture, SFT. Winterwatch and Soundscapes for Wellbeing logos, ©BBC

An enormous thank you to the **WILSON MEMORIAL TRUST** for their generous grant which will help us and the community to plant even more trees and hedges this year where they want, to help fight against climate change and for biodiversity - wilsonmemorialtrust.org.uk .

We also want to thank **THE STEYNING SOCIETY -** steyningsociety.org.uk **-** to whom we are affiliated for all their invaluable help and knowledgeable support. In the past they have helped us get our constitution written and to set up our charity status. They host our website and give us technical support and even help with our funding applications when we are snowed under. Chairman, Tom Aubrey, has now arranged for SFT to have a permanent slot for a talk to the Steyning Society in May of each year.

NEW PROJECTS FOR 2021

We hope to be able to work with the following organisations and individuals in 2021, Covid-19 allowing, and thank the people involved who are going to make all this possible.

Steyning Town Community Football Club — Chair and General Manager

The Steyning and District Commercial Partnership — Russell Barnes

Planting on verges in Rosemary Avenue (WSCC scheme) — Russell Barnes

Steyning Parish Churchyard – working alongside other organisations helping to reduce their carbon footprint — Christine Aubrey and others

Planting at Shooting Fields (WSCC scheme and more hopefully) — Marianne Drake

South Downs National Park Authority - planting on farm — Craig Daters/Mark Stenning

Planting in Penlands Vale (WSCC Scheme) — Phil Knights

Planting in Andrew Close (WSCC Scheme) — Linda Wakeford

Planting in King's Stone Avenue (WSCC Scheme) — Jane Oxley, Vice Chair Steyning Society

Planting in Newham Close (WSCC Scheme) — Mary McFarlane, Chair U3A Garden Club

Mary has spoken to all her neighbours and is funding it with some others. They are now in the process of choosing their trees.

Planting a copse off Kings Barn Lane — Shona & Richard Halsall

Planting Buckthorn to attract Brimstone butterflies — Neil Hulme

This is in addition to all our supporters in the areas already planted who worked so hard last year to get us started. They are all on our **ROLL OF HONOUR** which we will have at the Farmers' Market on Saturday 1st May.

Many thanks to all the people promoting tree planting, this is a great community effort. It is good to be co-operating with so many Steyning groups and individuals who are keen to see more trees and hedges in and around Steyning to help in the fight against climate change.

Picture credit: SFT

WHY PLANT TREES AND HEDGES

80% of birds rely on hedgerows for their food in winter. Rosehips have the same amount of vitamin C as 40 oranges.

Ivy has the same calorific value as chocolate - Source: Winterwatch

178 million hectares of the world`s forests have been lost since 1990.

WWF estimates 50% of species are at risk of local extinction if no action is taken.

Climate change could force more than 140 million people from their homes by 2050 - TREES REDUCE FLOODING

Trees help to cool cities and urban areas.

THE GOOD NEWS

The Woodland Trust has pledged to plant 50 million trees by 2025 – let's help them.

Sir Charlie Burrell's (the owner of Knepp) inspirational talk on 'Wilding' produced by the Friends of the South Downs, attracted an audience of nearly 500 local people. He said that after only 15 years there was an amazing increase in mammals and species and radical recovery of the soil. They reached a record for breeding songbirds in the UK.
He talked about the importance of green bridges over motorways, Climate Corridors and especially hedges and how more trees can be created by natural renewal.

His wife, Isabella Tree's book 'Wilding' is available from the excellent Steyning Bookshop - steyningbookshop.co.uk **- much better than Amazon!**

GREENING STEYNING is starting a Green Books book club with some interesting subjects to be covered. Details of the next event on the 4th March can be found here - greeningsteyning.org/green-books

Nature's value must be at the heart of economics

Sir Partha Dasgupta, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Cambridge University has just released his report "The Economics of Biodiversity" commissioned by the UK Treasury in 2019. The basic message is that "we are trashing our home", a sentiment echoing and supporting Greta`s "our house is on fire". He says "Nature is our home - good economics demand we manage it better".
You can read more here - cam.ac.uk/dasguptareview

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 steyningsociety.org.uk/steyning-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.

Steyning 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: SteyningForTrees@gmail.com

HAPPY PLANTING.