

MARCH 22 newsletter



BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING Let's help double tree cover



The Rector, Rev. Deb Smith, plants and blesses a Golden Hornet crab apple donated by us, in the St. Mary's churchyard, March 13th 2022. Members of the congregation helped plant the eight-foot sapling, which will complement the other blossoming trees in the churchyard. The crab apple, with pink blossom and yellow fruit, will enhance wildlife and be a feature of this busy passage between South Street and the playing fields and community orchard.

OUT AND ABOUT

We've been busy giving away free saplings to households, meeting new people and admiring some wonderful landscape and conservation work. Since the last newsletter in January we've planted at **The Living Tree** allotment by the river towards Pymore: **St. Mary's Fields**: put forty eight more saplings in at the **West Bay** playground: installed a fenced area of willows at **The Hyde**: planted private land in **Walditch** and **West Milton**: helped at the **Hogchester** nature reserve near Charmouth: helped members plant around the new car park at the **Golf Club**: gave more trees to **The Cowshed** : visited a very well managed site near Broadoak with its new hedges and a wood, and gave saplings to a project in **Shipton Gorge** - read about that below. We are as ever very grateful to **GROVES NURSERIES** for their support - they gave us Hollies, Scots Pine, Guelder Rose, Dog Rose, Copper Beech, Spindle, Corsican Pine and Bhutan Pine to be distributed. We still have some trees left - but not so many! Ask us.

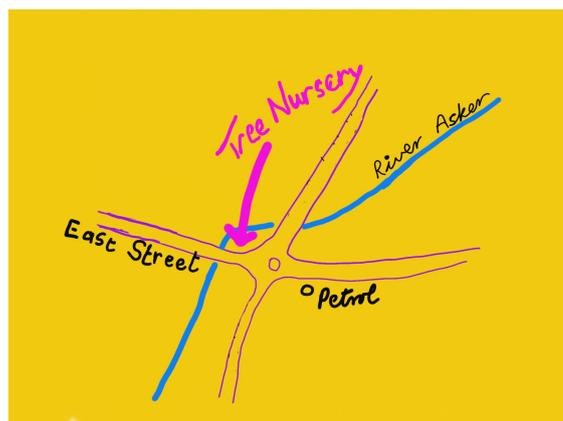
It is very pleasing to see new **hedges** in our catchment area. We also visited Mapperton House near Melplash to see their exciting rewilding venture and are delighted to learn that big local landowners are following suit in a new alliance which will increase biodiversity.

One of the last plantings of the year takes place this coming Friday, March 18th, at Coneygar Hill above Millenium Green with 200 little saplings from the Woodland Trust to go in. Starts at 10 am. Please contact Sue Arnold if you could possibly help. Bring spades. These whips will not, unlike the other ones we helped plant, be fenced in because no cattle are going onto the field this year. Millenium Field reserve is two hundred yards above Mountfield.

suearnold817@btinternet.com



Our little nursery at Riverside Gardens in mid-February. It's not so full now!



COPSE IN A BOX

We have just applied for one of the kits called A Copse In a Box from an outfit named Moor Trees on Dartmoor. If we are successful, this free kit will enable us to plant up to 400 tree seeds and bring them on. We would like to know more about seed collection and propagation, and this would enable us to get going. Interested in this particular topic? Let us know.

Here's a link telling you more about Copse In a Box and lots of other information too.

<https://moortrees.org/>

We found out about this through a new organisation, the Gert Big Dorset Hedge. This link below tells you what they are trying to do.

gertbigdorsethedge@gmail.com

They are part of the Dorset Climate Action Network, which we also recommend, and are now listed on.

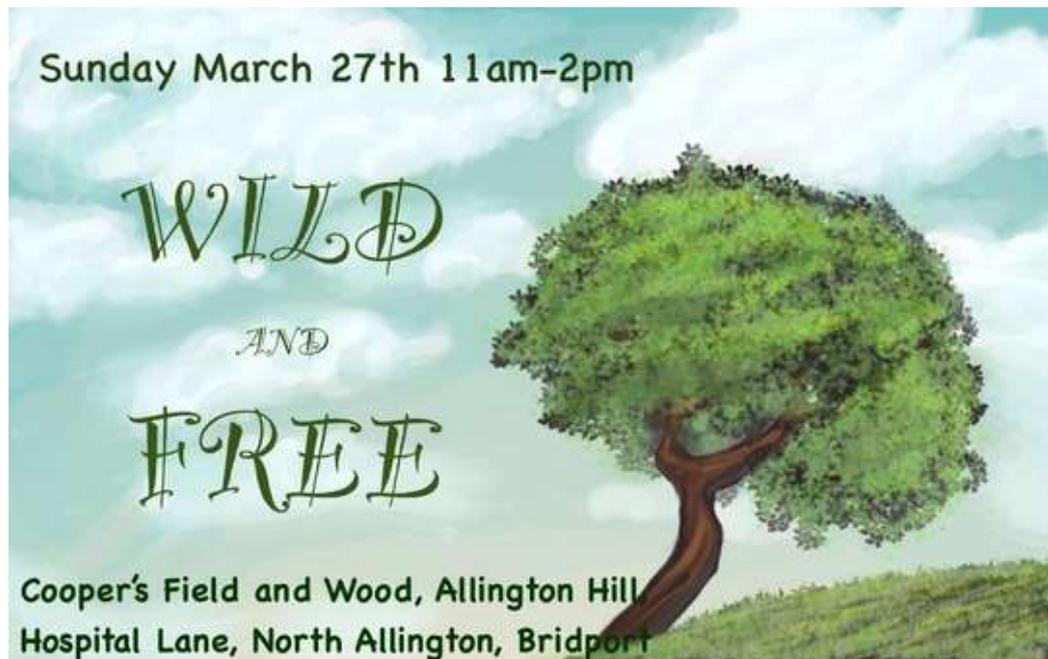
<https://www.dorsetcan.org/campaigns.html>

At the end of this month, on consecutive days, Bridport Tree Planting are putting on displays about what we do. Do go along to these two events - it would be nice to meet up. This newsletter now goes out to about 220 people and it would be good to get feedback and ideas on new activities.



The poster above advertises a VILLAGE GREEN event at Bothenhampton Village Hall on Saturday March 26th, 3pm to 5pm. Come along to hear about about home insulation, energy use, practical advice about electric cars. Try out an electric bike. We may have a few free trees left to give away and have a new map showing everywhere we have planted around town. There are children's activities too. Dorset Wildlife Trust will be there. The three themes are Home Insulation, Transport and Land Use. The slogan for the afternoon is **Save Money Now - and help Save the Planet too.....through local action.**
contact for more information: rachaelstyles@ymail.com

Then on the following day, Sunday March 27th, we have a stall and activities at an event called WILD AND FREE. It is on from 11 am to 2pm . See poster below.



FREE ACTIVITY TASTER SESSIONS FOR ALL AGES

Bookable 20 minute free sessions available on the day with

Kathy Kelly - Woodland Puppets

Jo Burlington - Oops Wow Messy Art

Jessame Coulson - Nurtured by Nature

Siobhan Kelly - School of Wild

Rachael Boughton - Poetry and Wild Writing

Also

Lots of other **FREE** activities including

Den building competition, Messy Bees project

Creating things from wood

Light refreshments available

Hosted by Allington Hillbillies, with kind permission of Allington Parish

Council. Funded by Co-op Community Fund and Dorset Council

Community and Culture Project Fund

Email: allingtonhill@gmail.com

Here is some news from Tracey West of The Word Forest Organisation, including information about how to give to this locally-based charity which works in Kenya.

“The COVID-era certainly threw a spanner in the works for many of us who wanted to get dirt under our fingernails by planting a few trees.

At [The Word Forest Organisation](#), a small international reforestation charity formerly based in Lyme Regis, now in Tipton St John near Sidmouth, we were hit with a double whammy from lockdowns in the UK and Kenya.

We're back to all systems go now, however and excited to share news of a new nursery we're creating on Rusinga Island in the far West of Kenya.

It'll be situated alongside our first Edible Classroom, a training space we're also building to spread the good green word about permaculture and tree planting.

Kenya is quite literally on the frontline of climate change and trees planted there absorb vast amounts of CO₂ because they grow up to 10 times faster than anywhere else on the planet. In terms of mitigating global heating and extreme weather events, they are crucial.

The Kenyan tree planters need our help to learn how to become more sustainable and resilient so they can keep planting trees to make our world well. The Edible Classroom will do a great job of making that a reality.

If you'd like to make a small donation towards it or the new nursery, please visit [WordForest.org/donate](#).

Back here in the UK we've a few exciting missions ahead of us. Between 21st and 27th March, it's Trees Are The Key Awareness Week, see [WordForest.org/Week](#) to see how you can take part.

Additionally, the neighbouring Beaminster Eco-Group have been busy planning the planting of the 500 saplings they ordered through our annual free trees initiative, a collaboration with the I Dig Trees project.

Keep your finger on the pulse of our activities to make our world well by subscribing to our news feed at [WordForest.org/subscribe](#).



As we say in our documentary, [#TreesAreTheKey](#) to doing so much more than mitigating climate chaos. I hope you grab a chance to plant a few before the end of the month too.

Tracey West: CEO and Co-Founder
The Word Forest Organisation”



Lastly from Anne Crowe, something about Shipton Gorge's very own wood. We gave them some trees.

Saunders Richardson Wood in Shipton Gorge

Shipton Gorge Heritage took over management of this wood from the Woodland Trust in 2011. The 2.72 acres wood with a small stream running through was bequeathed to the Woodland Trust over 35 years ago with the stipulation that it be kept and managed as an amenity woodland, primarily of broadleaved trees. Covenants in the lease preclude general public access, however, members of SGH have access during the regular working parties and for guided walks - and



membership is free for all residents of the village. SGH have taken advice from various experts including the Forestry Commission, AONB, FWAG, Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. A few years back, after a long period of minimal management, some trees were thinned out and this let more light into the wood, started the creation of glades and encouraged more natural wildlife habitats.

Bat, bird and dormouse boxes, were put up, sponsored by Shipton Gorge residents. Lots of the tallest canopy is mature Ash, and as the future of Ash is uncertain, we want to increase diversity in our wood to future proof it and make it home to all kinds of pollinators.

Early this year, following the necessary felling of some trees, particularly those with Ash die-back, Dorset Horse Logging - Toby Hoad and his Comtois horses - came in to help with removal of the timber. This traditional extraction method was far more suited to the woodland than any machinery and also amazing to watch. SGH are now planting up a number of new trees including Rowan, Alder, Field Maple and Goat Willow - a mixture of saplings and more mature specimens. To minimise the use of plastic in the wood, brash halos are being created around them to deter deer, squirrels and rabbits which visit the wood as well as the resident badgers.



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