

MAY 22 newsletter



BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING

Let's help double tree cover

From our point of view, the most exciting news to emerge since our March edition of this bi-monthly letter to you all was the announcement of West Dorset's rewilding scheme, which we hope will have big longterm impacts on landscape and biodiversity. Take a look at the link below.

"West Dorset Wilding is a new, landowner-led charity taking action for improved biodiversity, healthier land and waterways and improved resilience to climate change within West Dorset. Our mission is to take action to improve the natural environment and its resilience by collaborating with landowners, farmers and managers, regional partners and the local community. We are a very new charity but projects will include developing a baseline to encourage large scale rewilding and connectivity, reintroductions of native species such as beavers, and the promotion of regenerative farming. We will also be undertaking education and public awareness work, and supporting well-being initiatives. Our initial focus is on the Brit catchment and we will be saying more about this towards the summer. To sign up for news, and find out a little bit more, go to www.westdorsetwilding.org/"

We'll keep you in touch with this project as it develops but do feel free to sign up with them direct to get more information.

BRIDPORT GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK THIS YEAR WILL RUN FROM SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH TO SUNDAY OCTOBER 2ND. We're involving such local groups as the Brownies, Youth Club, a care home, Gardening Club, Forest School groups with the emphasis on practical restorative steps ordinary people can take against the climate crisis, helping the environment and perhaps their own wellbeing.

Here's a picture of two young people near London looking at an old survivor - an oak. Can you see its strange face? We are always interested to hear from you about any notable local trees. Send pictures!



Our planting season ended in April with quite a big rush for our remaining stock of give-away trees - three per household - and we are in good financial shape. Here is a map showing where we've planted or helped to plant around town in the past three years. A thousand trees a year.



LOOKING AFTER YOUR TREES

If you've planted saplings over the past winter and spring, you'll have been glad of the recent rain after a very dry April. But rain brings weeds. We advise hands-on weeding - down on your knees if necessary! - and mulching with compost or bark or cardboard or even a purpose-made mulch mat. The first two years of a tree's life need watering and weeding attention. After that, they can usually get on with growing unaided.



Here is a recent note from THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS, an organisation which gives us trees each year and which we rate highly. It includes a three minute guide to composting and ideas for your front garden.



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And another link, about tree houses. There are some brilliant ideas out there!

<https://www.designboom.com/architecture/sebastian-cox-sylvascope-treehouse-harewood-biennial-04-09-2022/>

And an article about whether forests can teach us to live better..

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/mar/21/the-big-idea-can-forests-teach-us-to-live-better-trees-model-suzanne-simard>

and The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew have been having their say about restoring forests..... published last year but only just noticed by us!

<https://www.bgci.org/news-events/scientists-lay-out-10-golden-rules-for-restoring-forests/>

Lastly and locally: there is currently an attempt to gain public support for transforming an area of land in Flaxhayes next to the river into a wildlife reserve, to be called Otter Bend. ‘Opportunity for a community wellbeing woodland, meadow, herb and mushroom forest garden, nature area.’ For more information, email

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