

JANUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER

BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING

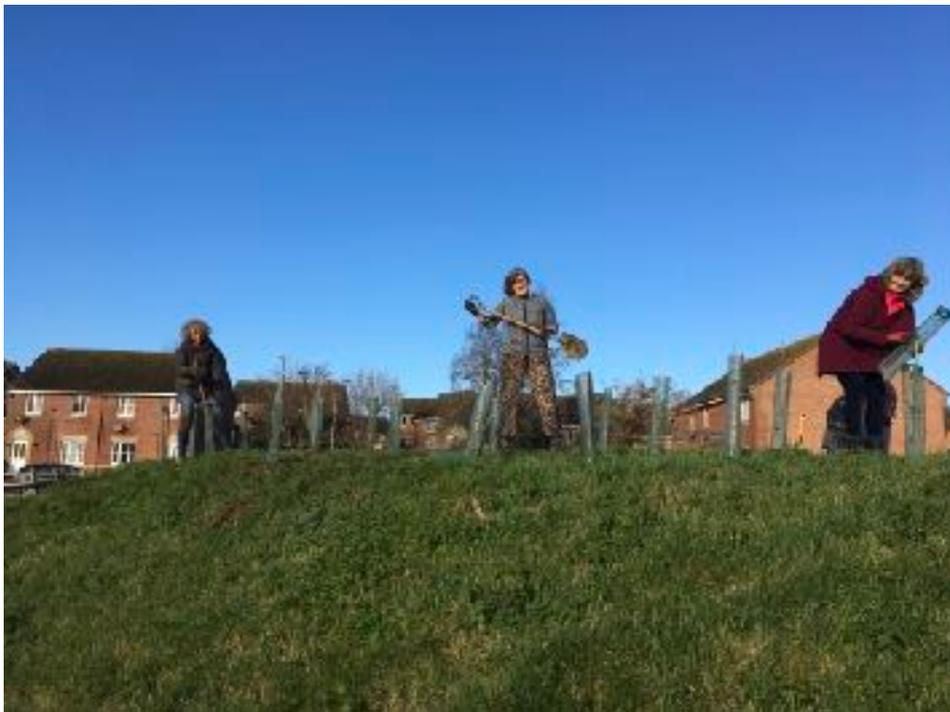
Let's help double tree cover

PLANTING IN PUBLIC SPACES - SUMMARY OF WHERE WE ARE.



Sue Arnold of Millenium Green planting one of 90+ new saplings, helped by John Hinsley and Lucy Rowland of Bridport Tree Planting. We put up the new fence there to protect from grazing cattle.

Five days after the Millenium Green planting a small team of us planted 75 saplings - hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, rowan, downy birch, crab-apple, goat willow, a couple of beeches and alders - at Dibdin View in the Flaxhayes area of town - land owned by Magna Housing Association.



This site, near the river, is right next to some trees which were vandalised and we had lots of support from passers by. We still have to plant five specimen trees here - oaks and hornbeams - and the main aim is to provide biodiversity and a screen from the industrial estate.

Other public spaces:

Asker Meadows: more trees going in soon.

Bradpole: We've been in touch with a group called Bradpole Buzzers and hope that within the next few weeks we'll be able to help them plant at the junction of Wellfields Green and Acer Avenue. This will be a copse of mixed species - 60 saplings - plus a few specimen trees.

West Bay: End of the cycle path/walkway near the playground - have negotiated to provide and plant 54 saplings here very soon.

Bridport Community Centre and Youth Club - we put in a new 30-metre hedge.

St. Catherine's School. Providing 28 saplings plus some bigger trees here soon.

Plus still a possibility of other sites. That makes a total of nearly 600 trees in public spaces this planting season.

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WANT TO HELP? We have had to restrict the number of people who can help plant trees because of Covid regulations. But do you live near a public space which looks a likely spot? Here's what to do and you could soon be planting and taking care of trees right near you. Contact us for further advice.

* discover ownership. and do a search (i.e. is the land safe to plant in terms of possible obscuring of road traffic, power lines, underground cables etc?)

*get permission. Possibly from Bridport Town Council or Dorset Council.

* encourage neighbours and local people to get involved.

Our scheduled public plantings - above - are nearly all done in this step by step way.

Here's an article from Jean Rainbow - the first in a series called 'ME AND MY TREES'. It shows a unique and very attractive way of planting.

We bought our 28 acre farm a couple of miles east of Bridport in 2007, and from the start wanted to fill it with trees! Having spent 12 years farming cattle, sheep, hens and a 100' polytunnel and planting 300+ metres of new native hedgerow, we've just started Phase 2, of 5 scheduled tree-planting areas. Winter 2019 was Phase 1: 1000 trees on a 2-acre field, carefully planned as a wildlife woodland, with two 5m- wide shrub-lined rides, meeting a glade surrounded by understory shrubs and Field Maple. The site now contains 12 rings of Sessile and Common oaks, each with a central tree surrounded by a ring of 8 trees on a 2m radius, and an outer ring of 16 trees, on a 4m radius; as well as a ring of Red Oaks for autumn beauty. Between these circles are 425 mixed predominantly native broad-leaves at 3m spacing, with some non-native warmer-climate trees to future-proof the woodland. After an arduous application process with The Forestry Commission which contained some unacceptable (to us) clauses, we decided to raise the money ourselves, offering friends, family and beyond, the opportunity to sponsor trees for £15 each, to fund Phase 1 and also help finance Phase 2: a 'first of its' kind' field trial with the Woodland Trust, planting 2600 trees on a deer-fenced, 5-acre site using biodegradable cardboard tree guards to find out if they are up to the job! If you or anyone you know would like to fund some trees, please contact Mark on 07973-970963.



[Cathy Harvey of the Allington Hillbillies writes about Ash Dieback.](#)

In March 2004 a new wood was created in Cooper's Field on the side of Allington Hill. The reasons for the choice of trees to be planted are lost in history, although it was not that long ago. 1,000 trees, including 500 Ash and 400 Oak, with a mixture of 20 of each, Crab Apple, Field Maple, Willow, Hazel and Gelder Rose. Ash grows much quicker than Oak. This has meant many Oak have died due to lack of light, are weak and unhealthy.

In 2019 we saw the first signs of Ash Die Back which now has a hold on all the Ash trees. We have been proactive and over the last five years felled 130 Ash and replanted with a wider diversity of trees. Sadly we will be felling even more Ash.

I can hear people saying, but! Standing dead wood is good for nature, let nature take it's course, some of them may be resistant to Ash Die Back. There are many experiments around the country including a Woodland Trust Wood which has been closed to the public. This is because Ash becomes very brittle once infected, branches and trees can fall without warning.

Cooper's Wood is in a very public place with many paths through and around the wood. It's a man made problem, too dangerous to leave to nature and we need to sort it out. This does give us the opportunity to correct the mistakes, give the trees room to grow and plant fewer, good diversity of trees and shrubs that nature and humans will benefit from. Hopefully others will learn from this project.

Do not over plant, give plenty of grow, know your trees and ensure healthy growth. A develops over decades. Plant period of years. With a little rest.



space for the trees to companion plant to natural woodland your trees over a care nature will do the

Here's a link to a YouTube clip of Philip Larkin reading his own poem, THE TREES. It's a reminder in these terrible wintery Covid times that summer does exist, and that life can begin again. His voice seems very dated but the words are lasting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM6n3SXSyeA>

There are now more than 160 of you on our mailing list. We had a huge response before Christmas with an offer of free trees - and we had to limit numbers. Our terms for individuals: five saplings free, then up to a total of 30 if a donation of approximately 50p to £1.00 per tree can be made. For that you get free guards and bamboo stakes. We have trees available still.

Do you have any home grown saplings to offer? You can leave them at our Riverside Gardens Community Nursery, by the river Asker at the very foot of East Road. It looks like this.



We've had to cancel our MORE TREES PLEASE event scheduled for February 20th at the United Church in East Street - because of continued lock-down. Sorry. We'll try to give away some trees at an open-air event in March when people can come individually and not in groups.



Joe Hackett - Bridport Tree Planting Co-Ordinator