

DECEMBER 2022 newsletter



BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING
Let's help double tree cover

PLANT A TREE FOR XMAS!

**You are invited to join us at
Flaxhayes to plant 40 saplings on
SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT
10 AM**

We'll be turning a rather bleak and bare patch of grass which looks like this



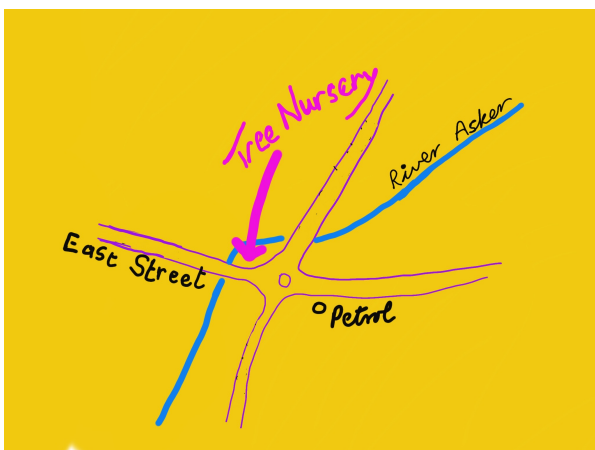
into a field bordered by pollinating shrubs and trees to encourage nature and to mask some of the trading estate from view. We'll be planting crab-apple, downy birch, rowan, hawthorn in a little copse, buddleia and berberis, elder, guelder rose and other shrubs on Saturday, and there'll be another planting in the New Year - a total of 90 trees, some of them bigger "specimens" and fruit trees. Bring a spade and gloves. Meet at the north end of St. Swithins Road, just past the Scout Hut.

Thanks to Groves Nurseries once again for generously supplying many of these trees and shrubs to us, free of charge.

NEW TREES FOR YOUR GARDEN OR FIELD. Free!

We have taken delivery of new saplings - three free per household, as before. If you need more than three, they'll cost you a pound each.

We have: aspen 40 hawthorn 70 blackthorn 20 dogwood 20 dog rose 20 silver birch 5 alder 5 beech 10 hornbeam 5 bird cherry 40 downy birch 40 Field Maple 45 Rowan 45 Oak 10 and some others including ash, sweet chestnut, holly. Come along to our community nursery in Riverside Gardens to have a look. To order and collect, email address is joe@thehacketts.uk



Hedges

Many of you will have noticed in local media the accidental taking out by developers of a mature hedge on the boundary of the new Foundry Lea housing estate at the end of West Road.



See Bridport Mayor Ian Bark's latest blog for more detail.

<https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/2022/12/10/bridport-investment-plan-st-michaels-plans-submitted-christmas-cheer-2022-light-up-a-life-foundry-lea-hedgerow-removal-and-more/>

This upsetting incident came at a time of increasing frustration among environmentalists about delays in detailing what payments if any will be made to farmers to maintain existing hedges and install new ones.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/dec/06/farmers-urge-uk-government-fund-hedge-creation-biodiversity>

There are a few local farmers around Bridport who, it is reported, are favourably inclined towards improving hedgerows. And there is certainly a way in which members of the public - I am talking about you who receive this newsletter - could help. It's called the **GREAT BIG DORSET HEDGE CAMPAIGN**.
Go to

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

for maps and details about how you could survey local hedges and build towards the 160 km Jubilee Trail hedge stretching right across Dorset. You'd walk a local trail near Bridport in 3km lengths - with another surveyor - and record your findings on survey sheets. Learn how to measure the health of a hedge! Put your walking exercise to practical use for the environment!

“Near Bridport this means the Brit Valley Trail, The Ridgeway and The Jubilee Trail. We are also hoping to include surveying hedgerows anywhere a landowner might like to have a survey done and also to include in the Great Big Dorset Hedge,” says organiser Julie Leah from Charmouth. You can email her direct for further information or sign up on the website.

greatbigdorsethedge@gmail.com

Wishing subscribers to this newsletter all the best for Christmas and the New Year. Big thanks to those who have helped over the past year.

Joe Hackett

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