

FEBRUARY

2023 newsletter



BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING

Let's help double tree cover

As the tree planting season nears its end, we have almost finished at Flaxhayes - a site owned by the Town Council at the top of St. Swithins Road - with a mixture of native species and nut trees (cob, hazel and walnut) and fruit trees (apple, damson, fig) and also some shrubs good for pollinators. There will also be a flower meadow.

We planted some more trees in Asker Meadows, provided apple trees to Bridport and District Allotment Associations, planted pear, apple and plum trees for the Cowshed near the Medical Centre, advised the Co-Housing project how to plant its new orchard, replaced some failed trees on the walkway to West Bay and have been giving away free saplings to householders in Bridport.

This issue contains photos about all this, plus an update on the exciting local wilding project which launched in early February.

But first, here's a link to the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website, which tells you all about how to identify bare trees - leaves won't be showing for a few weeks yet. There's a free app for your phone to help identification, and information about twelve great woodlands to visit in Dorset whatever the season.

<https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/see-the-trees/>

And here's a reminder from the Woodland Trust, who are aiming to plant 50 million saplings in the UK by 2030, about why trees are important in fighting climate change and helping biodiversity. As you're on this local Bridport email system you know this already, but does your neighbour/friend/family? Help spread the word and this newsletter with a click of your mouse.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/climate-change/>





WEST DORSET
WILDING



This is a logo you'll be seeing more of as time passes - West Dorset Wilding held its launch event at Bridport Town Hall on February 9th - and it was full up! A hundred local people gathered to hear presentations on what this initiative is all about. Go to their website to inform yourself and see the event content. It was good to see so many people - and not the "usual crowd" either - from not just Bridport but many towns and villages out of town; good to hear of progress already made; to hear two young farmers talk about their methods; to hear how the beavers are settling in (after escaping!) and to come away believing this will make a real difference especially if local farmers take up the new ELMS grants - farming for the environment.

<https://www.westdorsetwilding.org/about>

Photos below are of some recent activities of ours or things we've seen around town.



Volunteers planting sixty saplings at Asker Meadows, February 4th. Nice to see some new faces.



Cara and Sylvie Allan, volunteers, planting a fruit tree at the Cowshed project near Bridport Medical Centre



Presentation to Fiona Dare, Chair of Bridport and District Allotments Society, of apple trees worth £150.00. Taken at the Society's Hub at the north end of the Skilling Allotments, this picture shows some of the ten winning recipients after a draw was made - 33 people applied. Bridport Tree Planting hopes in the autumn to carry on being able to gift more fruit and nut trees not just to fight climate change and help biodiversity but to provide locally grown, nutritious food.



**Well
planted
standard trees
after the farmer
fenced in
footpath to
West Bay from
Bridport**



Bee Laughton, Judith Griffies and Jon Sydney planting a Conference Pear, part of the new orchard at the Co-Housing Project near Bridport Hospital. Residents have started moving in and the land above this very ambitious eco-housing project will have lots of trees and hedging.

SAPLINGS FOR YOUR GARDEN - FREE!

We have some native species saplings left - three free per household, as before. If you need more than three, they'll cost you a pound each.

We have downy birch, aspen, oak, beech, bird cherry, field maple, rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn, a couple of dog rose, dogwood, hazel and some others. Come along to our community nursery in Riverside Gardens to have a look. To order and collect, email address is joe@thehacketts.uk