

# April 2023 newsletter



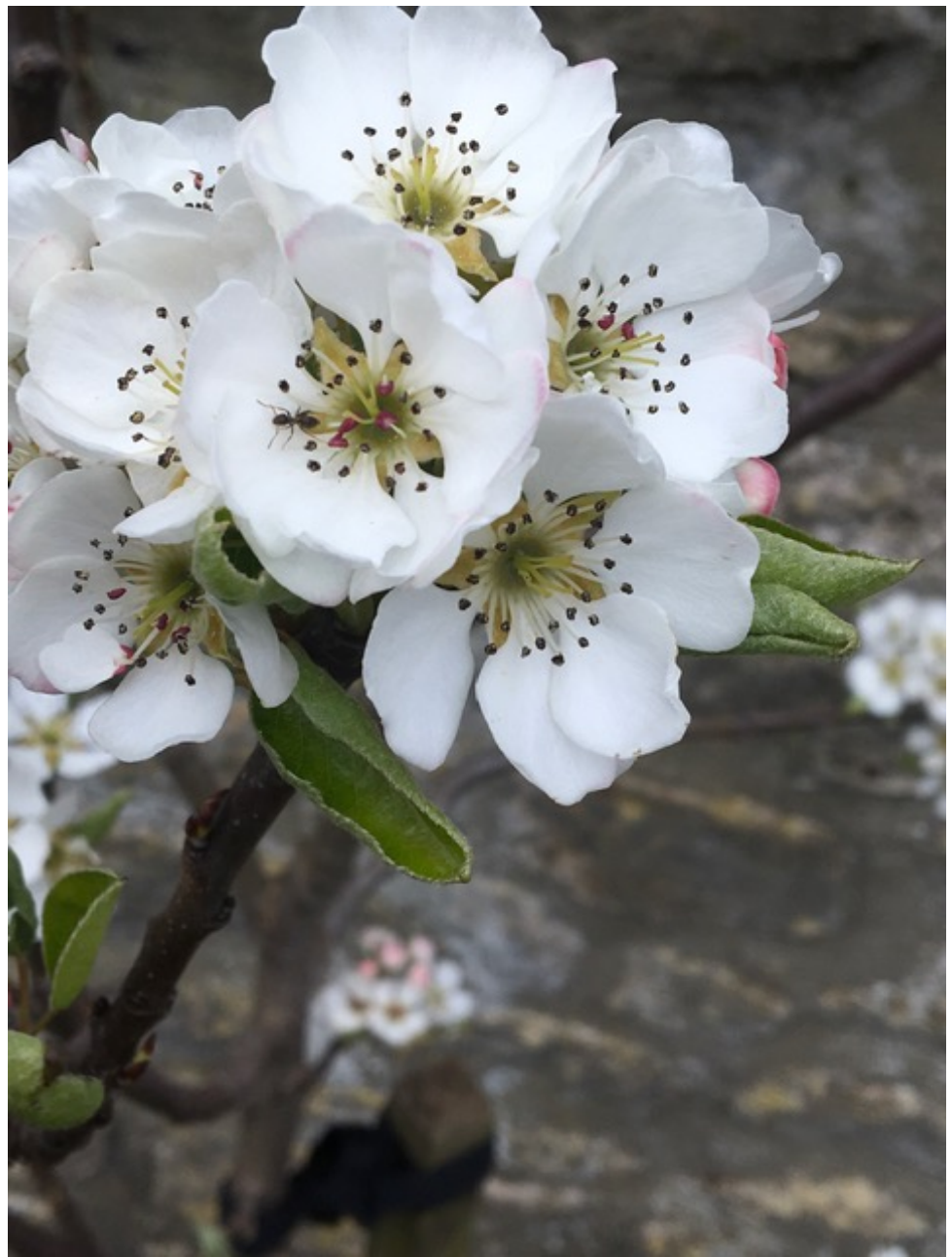
## BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING Let's help double tree cover

---

April pear blossom in a Bridport garden. **Spot the ant!** Do ants pollinate? Only rarely, apparently.

Google says

Ants are wingless and must crawl into each flower to reach their reward. Ants are more likely to take nectar without effectively cross-pollinating flowers. Researchers have discovered that **some ants are not important pollinators**, even though they visit flowers and may have pollen grains attached to their bodies.



This year looks like being a good one for tree blossoms, judging from the emerging cherry, apple, pear and plum trees around Bridport. Want to know more about why and how trees blossom? Go to this link from our friends TREES FOR CITIES - a four minute read.

[https://www.treesforcities.org/stories/why-do-trees-blossom?dm\\_i=7AN3,2NO4,U202U,94YO,1](https://www.treesforcities.org/stories/why-do-trees-blossom?dm_i=7AN3,2NO4,U202U,94YO,1)

In Tokyo the cherry blossom season loved by the Japanese began two weeks early, in mid-March.



While mentioning fruit tree blossom, so encouraging to see after a long and cold winter, you can read here first that Bridport may soon have another community orchard! It's early days yet but Bridport Tree Planting, which has been given extra funds by a generous donor, has been invited to look at a very large site in the north part of town with local people wanting to have an orchard and revive or replace some very tired play equipment. Such an orchard will complement the original one in the heart of town and the beautiful new one behind the co-housing project near the hospital, and other fruit trees planted by the Cowshed behind the Medical Centre and at the allotments in Walditch.

We will be able in the autumn to fund or part-fund the planting of lots more fruit and nut trees and have already begun a good partnership with Bridport Allotment Society - giving 23 bare root fruit trees to them a few weeks ago just in time to plant by lucky members. Our emphasis in future will be on trees for food as well as native species for open spaces and people's gardens. And hedges around town are also a target to improve and supplement in co-operation with landowners. We back the re-wilding projects announced recently and hope the grants to farmers to cultivate environmentally will be welcomed.

Because of the extra funds we no longer need sponsorship by Groves Nurseries and would like to thank them for their support by giving us the equivalent of a tree for each tree they sold over the past couple of years. Groves has its heart in the right place for the climate emergency we all face.

Good news from The Conservation Volunteers, who give us free trees through their programme I Dig Trees. They have just passed their target of planting three million trees. Well done! Here is a video



Not such good news from this article about the continuing decline of wild birds in the UK. Biodiversity continues to be under real threat. What more could YOU be doing about it?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/apr/13/uk-bird-populations-continue-to-crash-as-government-poised-to-break-own-targets>

.....

## TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

One of our supporters was horrified to see the recent felling of some very mature Monterey Cypresses in the builders yard on the other side of the river from Bridport Town Football Club. On inquiring with the Dorset County Tree Office, he was told in reply

“I can confirm that there are no TPO’s (TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS) at this location and it is not in a conservation area. Therefore, unfortunately the owner of the trees does not require to obtain permission.”

So, what is the general position about Tree Preservation Orders, and in West Dorset particularly?

This is what the Woodland Trust has to say

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/campaign-with-us/campaign-in-your-community/tree-preservation-orders/>

In the whole of West Dorset there are currently only 400 Tree Preservation Orders, which is surely minimal considering the thousands of specimen trees we have. They are the responsibility of Dorset Council. Bridport Town Council has nothing to do with TPOs.

Bridport Tree Planting as our title shows is strictly speaking only concerned with the **planting** of new trees in and around our town but we do also love trees in general and of course large specimen trees such as the recently felled Cypresses do a far bigger carbon-capture job than hundreds of newly planted trees. So, what to do to protect our larger trees?

If you are worried about a particular tree in or near Bridport, you should get in touch with Deanna Gateshill, Tree Assistant, Economic Growth and Infrastructure, Dorset Council tel: 01305 838342

She says you need to provide the following information. Address and postcode or map showing position of the trees, owner of the trees if known, reason why you wish them to consider the trees for a preservation order, are the trees visible from a public vantage point and are the trees considered to be under threat? If so, why? She says:

With regard to the last bullet point in the list above, for trees to be issued with a TPO they would need to be under some sort of threat i.e. a planning application or are being damaged in some way. If the tree is currently under reasonable management it would be imbalanced to serve a TPO, as for some owners this would be considered an imposition. You have indicated that the trees are at risk, and we would therefore be grateful if you could provide any further information or detail about the owner’s intentions.

Please note that we will not reveal your details to the owner, as they are protected under GDPR. You may find the following link to the government webpages on tree protection of interest -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas>

# *Wild About Wilding*

*Illustrated talk by  
Julia Hailes MBE*

*Wednesday 31st May  
7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)*

*Netherbury Village Hall  
Entrance £5 (or larger donation)*

*CASH BAR*

*All proceeds to Great Big Dorset Hedge  
Great Big Dorset Hedge is run by the  
Dorset Climate Action Group*

**TWO UPCOMING  
LOCAL EVENTS TO  
SUPPORT  
HEDGEROWS -  
PLEASE PUT IN  
YOUR DIARIES.**

Then in mid-June as part of the [Great Big Green Week](#) we have an event tailored to Bridport area.

**Come to Felicity's Farm Shop in Morcombelake on Wednesday June 14th to learn about what makes a healthy hedge and how we can plant more hedgerow. Meet in the car park at 2pm, we'll walk for an hour on public footpaths looking at hedges (with learning materials) then back to the farm shop for a free cuppa. This is part of the Great Big Dorset Hedge, sponsored by Dorset Climate Action Network, and co-organised with the Bridport Tree Planting group. Children to be accompanied, any dogs must be on leads.**



Joe Hackett  
Co-Ordinator, Bridport Tree  
Planting 20.4.23

