

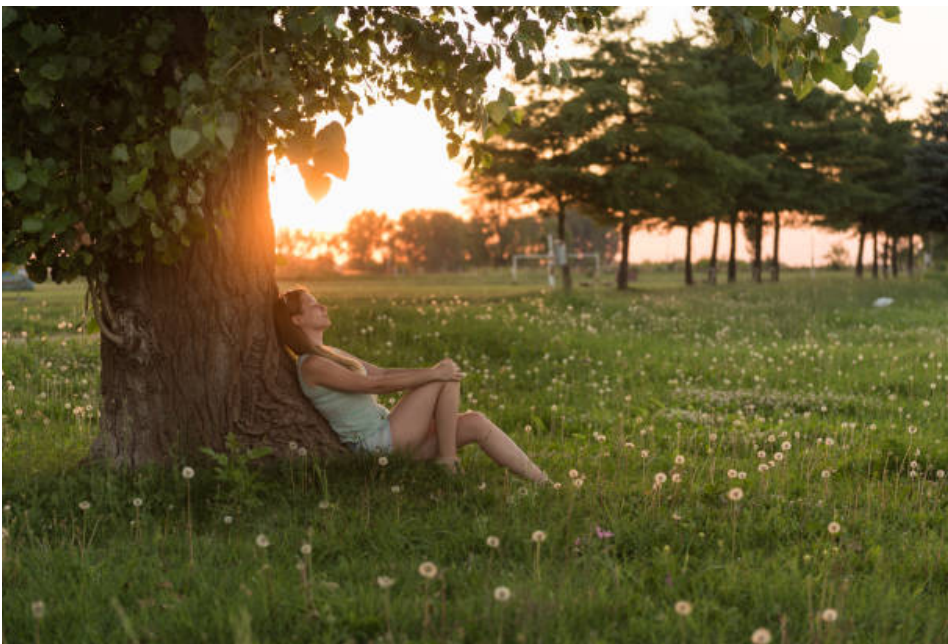
# August 2023 newsletter



BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING  
Let's help double tree cover

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Quiet time ... zzz



We've  
not  
exactly  
been  
asleep,

but Bridport Tree Planting has had a nice

summer rest free from putting new trees in the ground. There's been plenty of rain for our saplings (and that also means plenty of weeds to clear) and we now have a part-time paid helper, which is great.

We've also been planning ahead and are soon going to order saplings for the autumn and winter planting season. We're going to purchase 60 fruit trees for free distribution - some to allotment holders, some to neighbourhood groups and some to private individuals on a first-come, first served basis. These bare root fruit trees - apples, pears, plums, figs - will be costing about a thousand pounds and as ever we are grateful to our sponsor. Look out in the autumn for how we are going to give them away - you could be lucky and get one for your own garden.

We'll also continue with the offer of up to three free native species per householder - trees such as rowans, birch, crab apples, hazel - and are about to order in our autumn stock of about 300 saplings. We also might be putting in a new hedge or two in Bridport and hope to be helping to survey hedges out beyond town with a view to reviving these vital wildlife corridors and wonderful features of the landscape.

# Computer savvy? Can you help?

*Here is a message from John Calder, Project Manager for the Great Big Dorset Hedge*



## Those Vital Great Big Dorset Hedge (GBDH) Volunteers

When I think about all the volunteers who have been undertaking those GBDH hedgerow surveys it fills me with well-founded hope. Over 200 km of hedgerows surveyed in the first twelve months is a mammoth achievement. How exciting it is

to meet with such enthusiasm and to share time in such a worthy challenge. Behind them all there really is a core team whose dedication and commitment is enormous. When I tell my colleagues we only have 160 volunteers in Dorset and we need 400 to get the job done, they ask where will they all come from? In all honesty, we have yet to master how we replicate the successes we already achieved in West Dorset to the rest of the county, but we know which obstacles need to be overcome.

**It is not hard to find those who would enjoy the walk, would enjoy acquiring the new knowledge, and might relish being slowed down. What we find more difficult to find is the volunteer who is prepared to sit at their computer after the survey and load the results, or the other volunteer who is adept at computer skills to the extent that survey maps can be easily generated prior to each survey or amended after the survey reveals the need.** If, among your friends and peers, you know of local candidates for those more unpopular roles they would be embraced in our project team very eagerly.

John Calder - GBDH Project Manager

You can get in touch with John at [jccalder@gmail.com](mailto:jccalder@gmail.com)

Here are two striking images of burning trees - the first an example of vandalism this summer right here in Bridport, which the fire brigade had to put out, the second a sad picture of a diseased olive tree in Italy, yet another victim of *Xylella fastidiosa*, which is affecting wide areas of the Mediterranean.



*Take a look at what Moor Trees over in Devon have been doing lately. They planted or supplied nearly 19,000 trees last winter.*

[https://issuu.com/moor\\_trees/docs/moor\\_trees\\_newsletter\\_summer\\_2023?fr=sZjQxZTQyNjg0OTk](https://issuu.com/moor_trees/docs/moor_trees_newsletter_summer_2023?fr=sZjQxZTQyNjg0OTk)

**And here is an article from the Guardian in June about how to battle for local trees - and sometimes win!**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jun/14/london-trees-battle-save-development-chainsaws>

## *LASTLY,*

*in this shorter than usual newsletter because of our summer lull, does any of our readers wish to have the free gift of a bat detector? Not strictly directly related to trees, but certainly of interest to the environment generally. We were given this and wish to pass it on to a nature lover. It would cost you approximately £60.00 if bought new. **Please send me an email message marked Bat Detector and if more than one person is interested I'll draw names out of a hat. Closing Date Sept 1st.***

“It is a Magenta Bat4 Bat detector and a good quality one. Uses 4 AAA alkaline or rechargeable batteries (former included) . "low power design gives very long battery life". Designed in Denmark, made by Magenta Electronics in Staffordshire. It comes with a full colour guide to British bats and instructions for use.”



*Joe Hackett Co-Ordinator, Bridport Tree Planting. Please pass this newsletter on.*