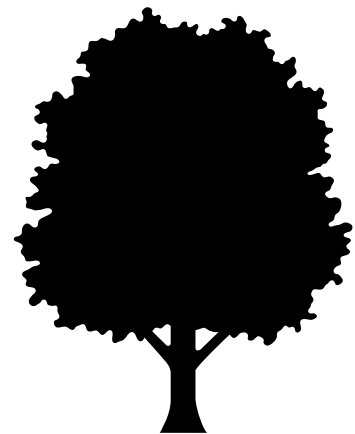


December 24 newsletter



BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING
Let's help double tree cover



Fifth year anniversary edition

Yes, we've been going for five years now - giving away and planting hundreds of trees to combat the climate crisis and increase biodiversity here in and around Bridport. Sometimes it feels like a losing battle but we continue, part of a **nationwide movement**. To mark our anniversary we organised a little competition - nominate a local tree of the year. The winner is Sue Arnold of the Millenium Green project and her nomination is the wondrous Lucombe Oak, which has been standing there on Conygar Hill above the town for more than 200 years.



Lucombe oak in three pictures

The Lucombe Oak is a cross between a Turkey Oak and Cork Oak. It was first propagated by an Exeter nurseryman around 1765. Early propagation was by cuttings and grafting and with a visible graft scar, this suggests that this specimen was planted when Downe Hall was built in the 1790s. In mild winters the tree is almost evergreen and retains its leaves for most of the year. If you don't know this tree, we urge you to go and admire it. Just follow the footpath above Mountfield into the woods.



Giveaway! Giveaway! Giveaway!

And now for our own little trees, free to you again, three per household. We've just taken delivery of 150 saplings and plan to distribute them as before on a Saturday morning in January. To reserve your three free trees - all native species - just email me with your choice. This year you can choose from

Downy Birch
Rowan
Dogwood
Dog Rose
Wild Cherry
Crab Apple
Hazel
Elder
Blackthorn
Goat Willow
Common Oak
Silver Birch
Green Beech
Hornbeam
Alder
Hawthorn
Field Maple

Not sure of a species or how big it will grow? You could consult the Woodland Trust, which has a useful guide to British Species here

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/>

Please note, this distribution is on a first reserved, first served basis and that sometimes we run out of a particular species. So book early! Email joe@thehacketts.uk

It was National Tree Week at the end of November and the Tree Council had an interesting discussion about the preservation of Heritage Trees. Now available on YouTube. Here it is. Lasts about an hour.



Here more locally the revived **Trees for Dorset** charity had its AGM recently.

They are mainly working in East and South Dorset but are keen to co-operate with us here in West Dorset. One outcome might be a local Arboretum just for this area, one of several in Dorset. They are working on preserving rare trees, especially the Black Poplar - of which there are only a few thousand left nationally. Here is a clip from a presentation at the AGM. Go to their website for more information. <https://www.treesfordorset.co.uk/>

Rare Tree Restoration in Dorset

Genetic Diversity
Ancient Genes
Veteran Trees – Where are they? Find Them
Seed and cutting collection
Clarify their genetic identities
Establish Arboreta
Expand nursery production
Plant them

Plymouth Pear

Bird Cherry

Black Poplar

Wild Service Tree

Large Leaved Lime

Trees for Dorset

The slide features a dark green background with a tree logo in the top right. It lists restoration goals and shows images of four tree species: Plymouth Pear, Bird Cherry, Black Poplar, Wild Service Tree, and Large Leaved Lime.

FOUR FUNNY TREE FACES

PLEASE SEND US IN ANY EYE-CATCHING FUNNY
FACES YOU SEE.



As per the beginning of this newsletter, we've been going for five years now. Our first ever tree planting in December 2019 took place in Asker Meadows - about 70 people including children turned up and it was a mixture of exciting and chaotic! Now Asker Meadows is having a review and needs a new Management Plan. Go to this Town Hall website to have a look and have YOUR say. You have until December 18th to do so.

<https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/asker-meadows-management-plan/>

AND SOME OTHER LINKS

- DOG -

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/30/bark-detective-dog-trained-to-sniff-out-uk-tree-disease-phytophthora-ramorum>

- GIANT TABLE -

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/dec/01/community-turns-ancient-oak-into-single-tree-table-in-devon-woodland>

- I DIG TREES



and here's a nice story from the National Trust

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/north-east/hadrians-wall-and-housesteads-fort/trees-of-hope>

Finally, one of our supporters has painted and had printed a fundraising card. Each one is 11 cms by 16 cms, comes with an envelope and cellophane cover, is blank inside and looks like this. We are selling them for £1.00 each and if you'd like to order, please contact me below. Thank you and Merry Christmas to all our 300 readers. Please pass this newsletter on.



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