

Blackpool Council

CORPORATE PRINT SERVICES

## Why Carbon Capture?



**We Carbon Capture the CO2 emissions from our paper purchases, by planting native woodland, right here in the UK, through the Woodland Trust. In the first 3 months of this year we have helped to create 52,875 square metres of native UK woodland.**

We believe life is better with trees. Our neighbourhoods feel better places to live and work in when they're green. Our farmland and countryside can produce high-quality food and support wildlife when trees play a part in the landscape.

We all breathe easier when there are beautiful woods in which to relax and unwind. And yet the UK needs more trees. We are one of the least wooded countries in Europe and trees and woods continue to disappear from our landscapes. This is why we plant trees on our land and support people, organisations and partners to help make trees part of their land. There are many excellent reasons to plant trees:

- Give wildlife a helping hand
- Create beautiful places for people
- Reduce heating costs with firewood
- Make good use of unproductive land
- Support the environment
- Enhance your business

## Tree of the Month: Whitebeam

**Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) is a broadleaf deciduous tree native to southern England, though widely planted in the north of the UK.**

It is commonly grown in parks and gardens, though is quite rare in the wild. Compact and domed, mature trees can grow to a height of 15m. The bark and twigs are smooth and grey, and the shoots are brick red in sunlight, but greyish green in shade. Leaf buds are green and pointed and leaf stalks are short. Leaves are thick, oval and irregularly toothed, with the underneath covered in white, felt-like hair. When the leaves first unfold they look like magnolia flowers. They fade to a rich russet colour before falling in autumn.

The berries are known as chess apples in north-west England and are edible when nearly rotten. The flowers are pollinated by insects and the berries favoured by birds. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of a number of moths, including *Parornix scoticella*, *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* and *Phyllonorycter sorbi*.

## A World without Trees

**What would it be like to live in a world without trees, without woods and forests? Do we really want to find out?**

Saturday 21st March was the International Day of Forests. It is a special day for the Woodland Trust because woods and trees are at the very heart of what they do. In reality it is an important day for everyone. Would you like to live in a world devoid of trees? Without the rustle of leaves in the wind, or birdsong in the morning, or laughter of children climbing ancient branches. While these may be lacking from the centres of some cities, we all know nature can be found if we walk a little further out. But what if this was not the case? What if we had ripped up all the trees, torn up all the land and concreted over everything? The suffocating thought of this is terrifying, which is why we are part of the Carbon Capture scheme, conserving woodland right here in the UK.



## Did You Know?

Elms used to be associated with melancholy and death, perhaps because the trees can drop dead branches without warning.

Elm wood was also the preferred choice for coffins. In Lichfield it was the custom to carry elm twigs in a procession around the Cathedral Close on Ascension Day, then to throw them in the font. Elm wood is also very strong and durable with a tight-twisted grain, and is resistant to water. It has been used in decorative turning, and to make boats and boat parts, furniture, wheel hubs, wooden water pipes, floorboards and coffins.

## What sort of winter was it for plants and wildlife?

**The mix of warm and cold conditions has meant that some sightings appeared when expected but most wildlife stayed sensibly 'tucked up' for the winter.**

There were some very early 'spring' records, such as frogspawn on 21 November in Cornwall. Snowdrop and hazel flowering timings seem similar to last year, perhaps because of the milder conditions earlier in the winter. There were also just a handful of early hawthorn leafing records, whereas the event was quite well established by the same time last year.

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