

Blackpool Council

CORPORATE PRINT SERVICES

Heartwood Forest: the Carbon Capture Effect

Through our support of the Carbon Capture scheme with the Premier Paper Group and the Woodland Trust, we have helped to plant in excess of 55,000 native trees at woodland sites across the country.

One of those sites is Heartwood Forest near St Albans.

But what does Carbon Capture mean for sites like Heartwood Forest? Over six years more than 40 dedicated volunteers have

- 🍃 The total butterfly count has increased from 1,166 in 2010, to 3,038 in 2014 - an increase of 160 per cent
- 🍃 Linnet sightings at the site have increased by 250 per cent (from 20 to 70 birds between the years 2009 and 2015). This is in comparison to the birds' overall UK population, which has declined by 57 per cent in recent years*
- 🍃 Skylarks have also increased by 75 per cent (with 131 birds spotted in 2015, compared to 75 birds in 2009).

been monitoring the wildlife at Heartwood Forest, their results show how, since planting half a million trees, some wildlife numbers have more than doubled, and new species have begun moving to the site.

- 🍃 Numbers of birds of prey such as buzzard, red kite, hen harrier, kestrel and short-eared owls have also risen.
- 🍃 Breeding bird surveys also revealed that the total number of breeding pairs has increased from 75 in 2009 to nearly 150 in 2015.
- 🍃 Small mammal surveys (which monitor mice, voles and shrews) have shown that 52 mammals were caught in humane traps in 2013, compared to 60 in 2015 - an increase of 15 per cent in just two years



- 🍃 Although non-native, and generally well known to the south of England, the exotic-looking wasp spider was spotted for the very first time at the site during 2015
- 🍃 The great grey shrike, a rare winter visitor, has also been photographed at the wood

Tree of the Month: Elder

It is thought the name elder comes the Anglo-saxon 'aeld', meaning fire, because the hollow stems were used as bellows to blow air into the centre of a fire.

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Mature trees grow to a height of around 15m and can live for 60 years. Elder is characterised by its short trunk (bole), and grey-brown, corky, furrowed bark. It has relatively few branches.

Elder is widespread in many temperate and subtropical regions of the world. It grows in woodland, scrub, hedgerows and on wasteland.

It often grows near rabbit warrens or badger setts, where the animals distribute the seed via their droppings.

'Show The Love' this Valentine's Day

When we Carbon Capture our paper purchases with the Premier Paper Group we are supporting the creation of new native woodland throughout the UK with the Woodland Trust, a member of the Climate Coalition.

Across the country the Climate Coalition members, including the Women's Institute, Oxfam and Christian Aid, will be making, wearing and sharing green hearts to show the love for nature and to encourage people to think and start conversations about the things they love which could be lost.

The Climate Coalition's latest 'Show The Love' campaign will launch in February. And you can expect beautiful green hearts on sleeves and green hearts in nature, a love letter written by one of our favourite authors and an inspiring film.

So let's get our friends, families and neighbours to join a conversation about how

climate change will affect us all and how we can all make a difference.

You could create heart-shaped trees, or embroider the name of your favourite tree species. If you are out and about you could use twigs and leaves to make heart shapes. Furthermore why not take a picture of your creations and join the online chat using the hash-tag #showthelove.

So whether you take a long walk in the woods or get busy creating green hearts, show the love this Valentine's day and let's help to protect our environment now and for generations to come.

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