

Blackpool Council

CORPORATE PRINT SERVICES

Why we're proud to Carbon Capture

Hello and welcome to the March issue of our Carbon Capture newsletter.

We're only three months into the year but we have been busily capturing the carbon from our paper purchases and we're proud about it!

The UK's tree cover is only 13%, the average across Europe is 44%. Through the Premier Paper Group's Carbon Capture programme we mitigate the CO₂ emissions from both the production and the delivery of our paper purchases, by planting new native woodland right here in the UK with the Woodland Trust.

The Woodland Trust are the leading woodland conservation charity and we are proud to work alongside them in the Carbon Capture scheme, they work tirelessly to

create a UK rich in woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone. Woods and trees are essential to life, they provide a myriad of different benefits; the world would be barren and bare without them.

Carbon Capture is not just about controlling and reducing the CO₂ levels, Heartwood Forest near St Albans is one such site that we have helped to plant new woodland at. Over a period of six years more than 40 dedicated volunteers have been monitoring the wildlife levels at Heartwood Forest, their results show that since planting half a million trees, some wildlife numbers have more than doubled, and new species have begun moving to the site this includes

species of birds, butterflies, small mammals and birds of prey.

By Carbon Capturing our paper purchases we also help to reduce the risk of flooding in some parts of the country. Trees alongside rivers don't only help slow the flow of flood waters and reduce diffuse pollution; they can also help with the survival of some of our most iconic fish species.

So the next time that you see the Carbon Capture logo on our printed jobs or our environmental certificates you will know that our tiny green leaf goes a very long way in producing a cleaner, greener future for the UK and we are proud to play a part in that.

Tree of the Month: Goat Willow

Goat Willow and other broader-leaved species of willow (including grey willow) are sometimes referred to as 'sallows'. Goat willow is known as 'great willow' and grey willow as 'common willow'. Both species are also sometimes called 'pussy willow' after the silky grey male flowers, which resemble a cat's paws.

Mature trees grow to 10m and can live for 300 years. The bark is grey-brown and develops diamond-shaped fissures with age. Twigs are hairy at first but become smooth, and can appear red-yellow in sunlight.

There are several native willow species in the UK and many hybridise with one another, making them hard to identify. Goat willow often hybridises with the grey willow (*Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*), to which it is closely related.

It is found growing in woodland, hedgerows and scrub, and on damper, more open ground such as near lakes, streams and canals. Catkins provide an important early source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects, and birds use goat willow to forage for caterpillars and other insects.

Seed dispersal: The 5 best ways to travel

If seeds were to fall straight off trees and germinate where they fell each tree would be suffering from a population crisis. Luckily, plants have developed a range of techniques to send their seeds off into the unknown.

Trees like to get their seed spread over a good distance; allowing the sprouting saplings to have space to grow. But how do they disperse the seed?

There are quite a few options, gliding through the air, floating on water, hooked onto a passing animal or a mixture of methods for a truly epic journey.

Gravity - One of the simplest ways to disperse seeds, grow a seed then wait for it to fall off. The journey may not end there though, a seed with a tough shell might roll a good way, a soft skinned fruit may break open and scatter the individual seeds.

Animals - The offer of a sweet tasting fruit tempts many creatures to carry away the seeds, perhaps dropping some en route. Jays unwittingly help to not only spread the seed of oaks; they go to the trouble of

planting the seeds too. Some plants produce fruits or seeds covered in hooks or spines which attach to fur or feathers.

Wind - Trees such as maple craft seeds with accurate wings which are a favourite among children who delight in throwing the seeds into the air and watching them spiral to the ground.

Force - There are several methods used for seed dispersal by force, but they mostly involve the evaporation of water from inside a seedpod. Stand near to a gorse bush in summer and you may hear the seedpods popping in the heat.

Water - Trees which sit beside water often rely on the stream or river to transport the seeds. The light seeds of the goat willow can be carried away by either wind or water.

The Woodland Trust are offering communities across the North of England the opportunity to apply for grants to manage and own their local woods, thanks to support from Nationwide Building Society. Visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk for more information.

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