

**Blackpool Council**

CORPORATE PRINT SERVICES

## The Carbon Capture Effect

**We capture the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our paper purchases by planting native woodland, right here in the UK, with the Woodland Trust through Premier Papers' Carbon Capture scheme.**

With only 13% tree cover in the UK, compared to a 44% average in Europe, the aim of the Woodland Trust is to see a doubling of native broadleaf trees such as oak, maple, birch and other indigenous species, in the UK. As the leading woodland conservation charity, the Woodland Trust work tirelessly to create a UK rich in woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone. Woods are essential to life, they provide a myriad of different benefits; the world be barren and bare without them.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have already helped to plant over 53,000 trees in the UK so far this year, with the Woodland Trust, through Premier Paper's Carbon Capture scheme.

By planting over 53,000 native trees we have helped to capture 13,000 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide whilst at the same time we have helped to protect existing and ancient woodland in the UK with the Woodland Trust. This helps to improve the air quality throughout the UK as well as restoring



natural beauty to the UK's countryside. It also provides more natural spots for people to visit and enjoy with their friends and family. The woodland creates habitats for countless species of wildlife such as lesser-spotted woodpeckers, dormice, bats, pine martin and other endangered or red listed species. Woodland also helps to protect the landscape from the risk of flooding and reduces the risk of soil contaminates.

### Tree of the Month: Yew

**Yew is an evergreen conifer native to the UK, Europe and North Africa.**

Probably the most long-lived tree in northern Europe. It is commonly found growing in southern England and often forms the understorey in beech woodland. It is often used as a hedging plant and has long been planted in churchyards.

Mature trees can grow to 20m. The bark is reddish-brown with purple tones, and peeling. Leaves are straight, small needles with a pointed tip, and coloured dark green above and green-grey below. They grow in two rows on either side of each twig.

Yew hedges in particular are incredibly dense, offering protection and nesting opportunities for many birds. The UK's smallest birds - the goldcrest and firecrest - nest in broadleaf woodland with a yew understorey.

Yew can reach 400 to 600 years of age. Ten yew trees in Britain are believed

## Did You Know?

### Woods and trees deliver £270 billion worth of benefits to society

That was the striking finding of The Economic Benefits of Woodland, a literature review of existing evidence prepared for the Woodland Trust by Europe Economics earlier this year.

Political interest in the report, which was launched at a breakfast event in the Commons has been encouraging. There is also a consensus that woods and trees have an enormous amount to contribute to the emerging natural capital agenda eloquently set out by the Natural Capital Committee Chair, Dieter Helm.

The contrast between the ever growing body of evidence about what woods and trees do for us such as cooling our cities, alleviating flooding and improving public health and the policy reality of planting rates which are in actual fact declining, illustrates why this is such an important topic to get to grips with.