

## HEDGEROW HEROES PROJECT



We are thrilled to announce that we have teamed up with CPRE Sussex and gained a Hedgerow Heroes grant through the CPRE national initiative to plant 2 kilometres of native hedge. This equals approximately 10,000 trees and will make a huge difference locally.

Hedges are vital wildlife corridors for many species especially if planted next to ditches and long grass verges. They provide a safe route for travel as well as food and shelter. In this area they help to link up the protected and special areas of Pagham Harbour, Medmerry and Chichester Harbour.

Hedges are our best friends as they hold soil on the land so that it doesn't end up in the water courses, reducing water quality, and silting them up, contributing to local flooding issues. They also soak up carbon, add to the visual appeal of the landscape, and slow down the winds, WE need to put them back, gap fill older hedges, and repair damage from previous long ago government policies around hedgerow removal.



The planting will take place in Ham, Sidlesham, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from the 19<sup>th</sup> of November through to mid-March, depending on the wetness of the soil. We are going to need LOTS of help to get these trees in the ground but this an incredibly rewarding activity that makes a huge difference. Not everyone has to dig holes, we have lighter jobs putting in the trees, stakes and guards. You do not have to commit to all the sessions, one hour during one session, even one tree planted, helps us. These are one year old whips, so they just need a slit in the ground - no big holes being dug!

More detailed information about what to wear, what to bring, where to park, what we will be providing etc and the planting sessions will come out in mid-October. Please clear your diaries for Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the next few months, clean and oil your spade, and get ready to plant a beautiful native hedge made up of many tree species.

To join us go to the MWHG website <https://www.mwhg.org.uk/volunteer> and sign up to hear about all the upcoming work parties and the information about the tree planting sessions.

