

## Climate Change Group Annual Report to Parish Council - 2022/23

Since the lifting of COVID restrictions the CCG have been very busy and have achieved a great deal of success over the past 12 months.

### Devon County Council (DCC) Emergency Tree Fund Project

In early 2023 new trees and hedging whips were successfully planted in the sportsfield, the old and new cemeteries, on Burrow Green and at the allotments.

Over four planting days the Climate Change Group (CCG) worked with Parklife and volunteers to plant 50 trees, all native species such as Birch, Cherry and Hawthorn as well as less common natives such as Wild Service and Juniper trees. The trees were bigger than expected and most are already in leaf. About 1,350 hedging whips were also planted creating 200m of new hedgerows.

DCC contracted a company called Parklife who managed the overall project in partnership with the CCG. In April 2023 the CCG will talk with Parklife about on-going maintenance (e.g. watering)

There was no cost to the parish; the Woodland Trust and the Queen's Green Canopy Fund paid for all the trees, hedging, stakes, guards, mulch and maintenance.

The planting will improve bio-diversity; provide food and nesting opportunities for wildlife and increase resident's enjoyment and well-being.

### Webber's Meadow

In December 2022 the CCG arranged the planting of a new Community Apple Orchard in Webber's Meadow with twenty apple trees planted in the north field. Two black poplars were also planted in the south field.

These trees need to be maintained by the community so the CCG will plan this before summer.

These trees were paid for by a £533 grant from the East Devon AONB board and £120 which was kindly donated by the Community Café.

Also in Webber's Meadow:

- Ted cleared sections of the wildflower meadow area soil and sowed wildflower seeds which he had obtained FoC.
- Ted also planted more willow whips in Webber's Meadow, in particular along the River Otter to protect the edge from erosion and a willow hedge along the northern fence.

### Volunteers

Many thanks go to all the volunteers without whom this amount of planting could not be achieved:

- the many residents who turned up for every planting session;
- the class of children from Newton Poppleford school and 9 Bickton College students who joined us at the Sportsfield;
- Toby Taylor's RSPB volunteers who planted in the new cemetery;
- Anita Kemp, Lorna Dalton and Makala Tillotson who provided free refreshments at all planting sessions;
- the Parish Council for allowing the planting on parish land;
- DDC for choosing us to be part their Emergency Tree Planting project and last but not least;
- to Parklife who managed the planting.

### Jubilee Copse

Although the Jubilee Copse was flooded for several weeks most of the whips have leaves and buds showing so it might have survived. If necessary the trees will have to be moved or new ones planted in the autumn.

A decision was made to leave the MUGA foundation soil in place to avoid accidental flooding of the orchard.

### Queen's Green Canopy

All the trees and hedging planted over the last 12 months have been added to the Queen's Green Canopy register to show how Newton Poppleford is helping to restore biodiversity for the future.

### Free Tree Giveaway on 11<sup>th</sup> February

To help counter the effects of ash die-back the CCG obtained 250 free tree whips from Devon Wildlife Trust to be given to residents to plant in their gardens.

The AONB joined us and also gave away 25 bird boxes, 3 hedgehog boxes and numerous hedgehog highway signs. One of the hedgehog boxes was put in the old cemetery.

A batch of 50 whips was given to the school who are creating a new woodland along their northern fence.

### Bulb Planting – phase 2

£60 of King Alfred daffodils were planted this year in various places around the parish including the New Cemetery, Burrow Green and Exmouth Road.

### Energy Saving

Despite much exploratory work the CCG had less success in terms of influencing energy saving in the parish.

Investigations showed a massive but confusing amount of public information available. Help and advice was sought from EDDC to create 'packs' of information for residents but unfortunately they're not in a position to assist yet.

We investigated putting electric vehicle charging points in a public area but were restricted because DCC are managing the rollout of these around the county.

We were able to publish 'Top Tips for Energy Saving' on posters and in the parish magazine.

