

Climate Change Group update to Parish Council – 27th Feb 23

DCC Emergency Tree Fund Project

Fortunately we had good weather and lots of volunteers on the four planting dates and all the trees and hedging whips were successfully planted in the sportsfield, the old and new cemeteries and on Burrow Green.

The 50 trees were 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 much bigger and more mature than expected so we should see a good impact this year.

About 1,200 hedging whips were planted at the four sites creating 180m of new hedgerows.

DCC additionally provided an extra 150 whips which volunteers planted to help rejuvenate the Devon banks around the allotment area.

The planting will improve biodiversity, provide many new places for birds to nest and native species means the right sort of food for wildlife. Equally important is that the new planting should increase resident's enjoyment and well-being.

DCC contracted a company called Parklife to manage the overall project in partnership with the Climate Change Group and in April we'll meet with Parklife again to talk about the on-going maintenance of the planting. Not just the watering but also things like the grass cutting regime.

AONB Apple Orchard

CCG also arranged the planting of the new Community Apple Orchard in December when twenty apple trees were planted.

The orchard needs to be maintained by the community so the CCG will discuss this at their next meeting.

Costs

There was no cost at all to the parish for the trees, hedging, stakes, guards and mulch, and thanks must go to the organisations and people who covered all the costs.

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

Planting on the sportsfield, old and new cemeteries, Burrow Green and the allotment were paid for by the Woodland Trust and the Queen's Green Canopy fund.

Additionally free refreshments were provided to volunteers at all 5 planting sessions by Anita Kemp, Lorna Dalton and Makala Tillotson

Volunteers

This amount of tree planting could only be achieved with a LOT of help.

Big thanks must go to the many residents who turned up for every planting session, to the class of children from Newton Poppleford school and 9 Bickton College students who joined us at the Sportsfield and to Toby Taylor's RSPB volunteers who ploughed through the new cemetery planting in a single day.

Thanks also to the Parish Council for allowing us to plant on parish land, Devon County Council for choosing us to be part their Emergency Tree Planting project and to Parklife who managed the planting.

Jubilee Copse

Although the Jubilee Copse was flooded for several weeks most of the whips have buds showing so it might have survived, but only time will tell.

However the MUGA foundation soil shouldn't be moved until expert advice shows how to avoid accidental flooding of the orchard as apple trees definitely don't like their feet in water.

Queen's Green Canopy

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

Note that to protect privacy they don't show the exact locations.

Free Tree Giveaway

To help counter the effects of ash die-back the CCG applied to Devon Wildlife Trust for 250 tree whips which were given to residents to plant in their gardens.

The Free Tree Giveaway took place on 11th February and there was an enthusiastic take up with all trees disappearing in 1 ¼ hours!