

Millennium Wood

On Sunday 26th March over 150 of us, including quite a few young people and children, planted about 1,500 saplings at the site along Dog Kennel Lane. As well as people from the Wychwood villages, there were supporters from Leafield, Chadlington, Churchill and from as far afield as Oxford. Everyone was fed by Anne Woodsend and friends.

We planted a range of trees and shrubs typical of ancient Wychwood, predominantly oak, ash and field maple together with wild service tree, crab apple, wild cherry and hazel. The planting was designed to respect the existing footpaths and views across the site, whilst creating glades and woodland margins so beneficial for wildlife. Contractors have now finished the planting, and in all I understand that about 2,400 young trees have been planted. Some locally grown wild flowers have also been planted and more are being raised for planting next year.

After consulting widely – including the local parish councils, district councillors and the school – the Woodland Trust has chosen the name ‘Diggers Wood’ for the site. There was most support for this name, which was apparently the old name for the field that has been planted. It is also appropriate in that 150 ‘diggers’ planted it.

After the somewhat late planting date, we were blessed with about the wettest April on record, which will certainly help establish the trees. Every cloud has a silver lining!

Thank you to all, including the District and Parish Councils, who have helped make ‘Diggers Wood’ possible.

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