



Friends of Parish Pasture Group

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Parish Pasture

Hedge Planting

In January the Friends of Parish Pasture (FoPP) group was informed that their bid to the Woodland Trust for 420 free hedging 'whips' (small plants 150-400 mm tall) had been successful and would be delivered in early March. A planting schedule was planned and the dates published with a request for you, the residents, to come along to help plant the 'whips'. These dates were advertised on posters around the Parish.



Snow, snow and more snow arrived at just the wrong time! This delayed the delivery of the 8 boxes of 'whips', bamboo canes and tree guards and then prevented them being planted when they did arrive. Emergency contact with 'Muddy Fork', the wellbeing and mental health support charity based at

the Idle Valley Centre in Retford, led to a quick positive response and the first 240 'whips' went in on 23 March. The FoPP group are very grateful to 'Muddy Fork' for all their work. Paul Willcock, Chairman of the FoPP group said "It was a big day for all involved in both the Neighbourhood Plan and the FoPP group as this is the first planting in this major project for the Parish. We are very pleased that 'Muddy Fork' are part of this."



Members of 'Muddy Fork' with Paul Willcock, Chairman of the FoPP group



Residents and FoPP group members busy planting the last of the hedgerow 'whips'

The following day the FoPP group, aided by three residents, planted another 180 'whips' to complete the second hedge. The two hedges, at either end of the allotment area, total 90 metres of new hedgerow, which include ten species of plants to give food for wildlife and year-round colour in the hedgerow. A new home for wildlife.

In addition, the same group planted a further 46 tree 'whips' in four areas of the Parish Pasture to produce 4 small copses. Supplied by the



Retford Rotary Club, the tree species are Hornbeam, Wild Cherry and Beech.

On Tuesday 26 March the FoPP group was given around 800 Snowdrops 'in the green' and these have been planted around those parts of the Pasture which will not be disturbed by work needed on the land. In addition, some Bluebells (English of course) have been planted and there will be more to come as the group has been given £100 by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to buy pollinator plants to help promote pollinating insect species such as bumble bees and early butterflies.



Now the bad news!

While all this positivity was going on the FoPP group received good news and bad news from the BDC Tree Officer. The good news is that the large Ash Tree which is right next to the current footpath across the Parish Pasture is sound and looks healthy. The bad news is that many of the multitude of self-set Ash saplings have contracted Ash Dieback disease – Chalara. The diseased saplings are in the process of being cut out and will be burnt on site as they cannot be removed from the land. Residents are asked to be careful in the area where the saplings have been removed as there are very many small tree stumps left. These will take many months to remove.

The FoPP group apologises for any inconvenience which this burning may cause – or may already have caused.