

Rowden Copse in Uley - A tree planting story

On a Friday afternoon after lessons in February fourteen children from Uley School planted a Beech sapling each in a field on Elcombe Farm, accompanied by some parents and the Headmistress. This was the start of Rowden Copse.



Each sapling was deer-protected with a tube supported by a wooden stake. The name of the planter was written on the stake so that the planter can follow the growth of their tree. The saplings, tubes and stakes were provided by Gloucester County Council, as part of their project to plant a million trees in Gloucestershire by 2030, their hope being that groups of volunteers around the County will plant saplings in their local areas.

The following Sunday seven adult volunteers planted a further 86 saplings - Beech, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Wild Cherry. The Copse is on a farm outside Uley, and the support and enthusiasm of the landowner farmers is much appreciated, impossible without it! A further 70 saplings including Silver Birch were planted during the week after, provided by the farmer, and a large water container was installed to help with the early after-care.

Local interest was aroused and word spread, and in the following month two more local landowners got in touch to offer sites for planting! Next winter could be busy (the period for planting being October – March). Last year so many of the trees planted nationally were found to have died during the summer drought, so this coming summer will probably also be busy watering! A Whatsapp “Uley Trees” group of volunteers has been formed to call on.

The project has been the initiative of the [Coaley Uley Climate Action Network](#), CUCAN. It is encouraging that many people, and some landowners, are sufficiently concerned about the Climate and Nature crisis to give voluntary support to action that can mitigate it. Children are no less aware - in many cases more so (Greta Thunberg....) - and their enthusiasm and empowerment are clearly stimulated by active involvement. Farmers are now additionally incentivised by the ELMs project, recently launched by the Government (Environmental Land Management Scheme), whereby they can receive payments for such actions as large-scale tree planting ([Environmental Land Management schemes: overview - GOV.UK](#)).

