

World record tree planting event

On **Saturday December 5th**, volunteers from New Ash Green and Hartley joined forces to create a new 50m stretch of hedgerow as part of a national attempt to plant **A MILLION TREES IN ONE HOUR** and beat the previous record of 653,000 held by the Philippines.

Community groups from all over the country took part in the event initiated by BBC Breathing Places, each pledging to plant as many trees as they could within the allotted hour. **New Ash Green Woodlands group** rose to the challenge, and with help from Ash Parish Council, Northfield Management Committee, local Tree Wardens, and the Hartley Brownies, were able to plant a total of **242 trees**.

In order to count towards the record, all trees had to be planted between **11am and 12noon**, but following a week of rain it was impossible to predict how many volunteers would turn up on the day. Thankfully, after a wet start the clouds parted and the unexpected blue skies encouraged **more than fifty volunteers** (many of them children) out onto Northfield, the wonderful open space that sits between Hartley and New Ash Green.

At 10.30am, helpers were divided into five planting teams and given a thorough safety briefing and demonstration. Excitement grew until at 11 o'clock, after a loud communal countdown, the whistle blew to signal that planting could begin. With adults doing the digging and children in charge of planting, all **242 hedgerow trees** were planted in an astonishing **35 minutes and 15 seconds**, leaving plenty of time for photographs and hot mugs of tea.

Well done to everyone who took part! Although we didn't quite beat the world record, this was a wonderfully successful community project and the results will be visible for many years to come in the form of a new section of hedgerow, providing valuable habitat and a green highway for bats, birds and small mammals. All trees planted also count towards the United Nation's Billion Trees Campaign which is a worldwide initiative.

To see photographs of this event, or for information about forthcoming Woodlands Group activities, please visit www.nagwoodlands.ik.com or phone Carole on 01474 874976 or Jerry on 01474 879897. You can also find out more about this and other national events by visiting the BBC's website at www.bb.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock