

## PLANT A TREE - Update LYNCHCOMBE WOOD



Covid and the new restrictions have meant that the well laid plans for a planting weekend on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January at Lynchcombe had to be reconsidered. 150 trees had been duly collected from the tree nursery at the beginning of January. Stakes, ties and guards were all assembled, risk assessments considered and decided upon .... And then lockdown. So the saplings were heeled into the ground temporarily, awaiting a new plan.

The Tree Group is acutely aware of the need to follow the rules. It is equally important that the trees are in the ground before the end of January, and with advice from the Tree Council and a careful consideration of what is allowed and what is not, plans have now been made to achieve our aim. Individuals – or bubbles – have already started planting small areas in a strictly controlled way, following all guidelines and taking all necessary precautions.



Chris Eyles, the SWT West Mendip Reserves Manager, made a recent visit to Lynchcombe and, as can be seen in this photo, made his own contribution to our efforts.

Thereafter, our first task was to place all the stakes in the ground to mark planting positions, and each stake was accompanied by a tree protector. Placing them in this way made all the subsequent tree planting much easier to accomplish efficiently and easily.



By the end of the third week of January a total of 50 trees had been safely installed by a number of people, despite the wind and the wet, and the added difficulty of working on what is sometimes extremely difficult and sloping terrain.

We are confident that we can achieve our aim of completing the planting by the end of January while keeping everyone involved safe. Our sadness is that we have not been able to make it the community event originally envisaged. If anyone or any family is interested in helping us and having a planting session your help will be most welcome. For details about this, or anything else concerning the Tree Group and its activities, please contact Buffy Fletcher on 01749 870531