

## **Report of the Tree group for the Parish meeting**

The tree group has now been running for almost exactly 3 years and we have achieved progress in a number of areas.

The tree Nursery has developed from a bramble patch to an organised place with 10 beds for growing trees and 3 more planned. The polytunnel is now in use with seedtrays with a variety of tree species growing. We have only had 2 complete growing seasons and at the end of our first year we were able to plant a little more than 100 trees that we had grown, this winter it has been more than 1000, though we had looked after some surplus trees from Bristol which has boosted our numbers a bit. As we have learned more about growing trees we have taken steps to increase the Nursery's biosecurity with a recording system to provide traceability and ensure safety from importing any disease. These changes have resulted in all of us having to change how we work and these changes have gone well so far. We have a friendly and hardworking team but would always welcome anyone who would like to join us. Last summer's drought was a challenge but with team work we kept all our trees alive.

This winter has been a busy planting season with a variety of projects taking place. The biggest was the new hedge at Furlong farm with over 2,000 trees. Mostly bought for the project but augmented by trees from the Nursery. The group has had trees from the AONB as well as our own homegrown and so the total planting that we have been involved with is over 5,000. The group supported the playing field hedge and some planting on the Strawberry line. Strawberry line planting in Easton was done by the Easton wildlife group for us. Other trees went to Wedmore to start a small wood and 46 have just gone to west Wales to help with the shift from coniferous to deciduous woodland in one small wood.

As the group is better known in the village it has been possible to help landowners get grants and achieve their chosen objectives. This has been a positive experience and we would be happy to support others who might want to do the same.

The tree Group has been very lucky to have continuing support from the AONB and generous landlords in Guy and Evelyn Timson.