

**ROTARY CLUB OF HARROGATE**  
**PLANT TREES TO HELP BALANCE YOUR CARBON**  
**SCHEME REPORT FOR 2020/2021**  
**TARGET – TO PLANT 25,000 TREES**  
**IN THE NIDDERDALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING**  
**NATURAL BEAUTY**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year we only managed to plant another **100** trees bringing our total to **19,858** leaving us with another 5,042 trees to go or slightly over 20% to go in order to achieve our original target.

We were all set to plant 500 trees at the Nidderdale Way site, belonging to Paul Garforth, situated about 2 miles outside Pateley Bridge, which we were going to plant last year, until we came up with the problems there. You may recall that there were some fencing issues, access problems with a weak cattle grid on the approach road, and the need for the bracken to be sprayed before we planted. Since then, the bracken has been sprayed twice so if all goes to plan, we will hope to plant there either this coming autumn or in March 2022. We also had to cancel the help we were due to receive from Open Country who had been all set to come on the 12 March this spring to plant, but, of course, the date was too close to lockdown!

We were also all ready to plant a further 300 trees at Carr Close Farm, Darley in a different field from last time, but again the Covid-19 restrictions prevented us from going ahead.

However, all was not quite lost, as, thanks to the help we receive in planting through Zero Carbon Harrogate, we organised two weekend events where a party of 25 or so workers (we were allowed 30 maximum) did some remedial and back-up work at both the field where we planted our trees last year at Carr Close Farm, and also Folly Hall, Thornthwaite where we planted 1000 trees the year before. The idea was to check the trees, ensure that the stakes were secure, and remove any growth (apart from the tree!) from within the protecting sleeve. What tends to happen is that grass grows within the tube rather like forced rhubarb, and, if left, can strangle and stop the growth of the tree and ultimately kill it. By loosening the sleeve and lifting it, the grass can be removed from the bottom, and then the sleeve replaced and secured again to the stake.

We had an interesting approach from a company called Unit 4. They asked if they could come and plant 40 trees for each of their four offices to celebrate 40 years since they started. As it happens, two of the offices are in the north (one in Harrogate) and two, including their Head Office are in the south, one near Reading. Through a Rotary contact I have in Reading, a new Rotary Club in that area has taken over the planting for the two southern branches leaving us with the two northern ones. The 80 trees with us were to be funded partly by donations from their employees and the company would then make up the balance. If successful, the idea would be to do this on an annual basis, with encouragement for as many of their employees as possible to actually come and plant the trees themselves, probably on a Friday so that they would have an extra 'free' day before the weekend! Originally, they were going to come and plant at the Nidderdale Way site, but we had some trepidation about a lot of people travelling along a 2 mile track with few overtaking places, and had even arranged a one way traffic system to cope, warning the residents in the area accordingly. However, parking and the approach to site will be much better at Carr Close Farm, so the aim

will be for Unit 4 to plant their trees there either next autumn or the following spring. We are not sure whether they will now fund one year or combine it with a second year, so we **hope we get** funding of 160 trees of the 300 at Carr Farm if we are lucky.

We did manage to get 100 trees planted this spring, as they were put in by the landowner. This was at a site at Duck Street, Greenhow. The intention was to extend and infill an existing small wood, and the approach came from Alice Crosby from the Nidderdale AONB Office in Pateley Bridge. She has now taken over from Marian Wilby the responsibility for tree planting and assessing any new sites we have, agreeing with the landowner how many trees are to be planted on the site, the variety of tree and the quantities of each variety.

We have also been approached to help to plant 3000 trees Eavestone Lake. The landowner is prepared to buy 2000 of the trees and has asked us to support him with the other 1000, if we will also help with the planting. Because of the lockdown, I have not been able to visit the site yet, but will do so as soon as restrictions are eased. From what I have since learnt this could well be part of a project covering the River Skell valley which starts up in Dallowgill and makes its way via Fountains Abbey to Ripon where it meets the River Laver and then soon afterwards flows in the River Ure before coming to York, changing its name to the River Ouse in the process. I am also hoping to involve the Rotary Club of Ripon, which used to be my original Rotary Club – I was its President 50 years ago – as the area is probably nearer Ripon than Harrogate, and work on a combined basis with the resources of the two Clubs.

Having moved (back) to Ripon from Harrogate about 20 months ago, it has been on my mind to also change my Rotary Club, being easier to attend a lunch on a Tuesday rather than an evening meal on a Monday night, especially during the winter months. I am therefore handing over this scheme to a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Harrogate, Charles Dickinson, whose address is 12 Pellentine Road, Follifoot, Harrogate HG3 1EB, Telephone 01423 815139 and e-mail [Charles.dickinson@btinternet.com](mailto:Charles.dickinson@btinternet.com). I will, of course, always be there to help and advise when needed, and I hope he will be successful in completing our target of 25,000 trees.

This, of course, all depends on the money we get in. Over the years the cost of the trees, sleeves and stakes has gradually gone up, though until recently we have managed to keep the unit cost below £2.50 each. However, realistically, we are now having to pay around £3.00 (or 5 trees for £12 with Gift Aid!). While grants are available, they come with strings attached, such as the site where the trees are to be planted must be open to the public, a condition which does not suit some landowners. We have also tried to carry out the scheme by enabling people who wish to balance their carbon output to donate to buy trees. We used to call the Scheme a Carbon Offset Scheme, but it appears that in order to qualify, we have to get all sorts of additional surveys done to calculate on each site the carbon capture based on the number, type and age of the trees being planted, so we felt it easier to change the name!

Thank you very much for your very kind support you have given to us by your donations. If you require a certificate for tax purposes of the amount(s) donated, and the Gift Aid we have claimed, please let me know. An e-mail address would be even more helpful, so please feel free to ask me through mine! Charles has also asked if you would like to give him your e-mail address so that he can send future communications that way rather by snail mail!!

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(The pictures here are of the site at Greenhow planted this spring)

