



# SWA ECONeWS

Next meeting: TBD

9th January 2021



@eco\_swa



@swaecoschools

## 2020 trees in 2020 project:

An amazing achievement for the SWA eco team and all of the supporters of the '2020 trees in 2020 project', not only was the school able to complete this project, but surpassed the intended amount of trees and planted 2057!



Initially Emma Dunham, who helped fundraise for the project, started by contacting local businesses who generously sponsored us. Our very own netball team undertook a gruelling 24-hour netballathon and, with parent and staff donations, just over £3,000.00 was raised. In addition after applying for free trees for schools, the Woodland Trust and The Tree Appeal donated over 1000 trees to aid the project.

As to where the trees would be planted, the committee arranged for parents and staff to plant trees in their own gardens, where 149 trees were bought and housed. Soon after, 120 trees were planted in Ampthill Park, with the help of students and teachers, braving the February chill. Another trip took place in Wilstead Site at the Forest of Marston Vale where 10 students and 4 members of staff planted 200 trees, *details of which can be found in the link below*. Following on from that Mrs Ambrose and 2 students on a wet and windy February day heroically walked to Cliftonbury Farm to plant 20 English oak trees with John Wall the Farm Manager and Emma Dunham joined the Eco Warriors and Head Mistress Debbie Randall at Langford Lower School to plant another 10 trees on their school field.

Jackie Weston had the idea to contact farm owners, in particular Charles Whitbread, to see if they would be interested in accommodating trees on farm land. Sydney McGrath contacted Mr Whitbread and arranged for him to come and meet the Eco Committee at School to find out more about the Eco Forest. Mr Whitbread fully backed our endeavours to plant more trees and the goal finally seemed to be within reach.

<https://www.marstonvale.org/news/students-planting-2020-trees-in-2020>

Then Covid19 loomed over the school and with rumours of lockdown, the race was on to plant 263 trees that had been donated by the Woodland Trust on the SWA grounds. Rotas were set up and students and staff all joined in to plant the trees before a lockdown shut the site. Every available moment was used from tutor time, break times, lunch times and after school to get the trees in the ground. However, lockdown still posed problems for the 240 trees that had been ordered for other locations. Andrew Foster from Polehanger Farm and Jack Hadley from St Mary's Lower School took up the challenge and during lockdown planted all the 210 and 30 trees that had been ordered for their sites respectively. So, nearly half way through our challenge and lockdown carried on for months on end. However, we returned to School in September and despite the extra work brought about from Covid procedures, we rallied together and had our first Google meet Eco Meeting of the year – with all year groups in separate classrooms throughout the school.



Ampthill Park volunteers planted a further 105 trees and plans were made to plant 924 trees at Charles Whitbread's estate at Southill Park. A huge task to undertake, which was successful in December with the help of staff and students within certain year group bubbles, and thus the challenge to plant 2020 trees in 2020 was achieved with tremendous pride.

We would like to thank all our sponsors who kindly supported our Eco Forest; Supreme Paintworks Ltd, Land and Marine Environmental, Monk & Smith Building Contractors, Bathroom Vogue, Hings Opticians, Bow-Belles String Trio, FB Chain Ltd, Savill Trees and Colpac Packaging Ltd and the support of Staff and Parents from Samuel Whitbread. We would also like to thank Debbie Randall from Langford Lower School, John Wall the Farm Manager at Cliftonbury Farm, Jack Hadley from St Mary's Lower School, Charles Whitbread of Southill Park, Phil Nicholson from Ampthill Park, Andrew Foster from Polehanger Park for working with us and allowing us the space to plant the trees.