

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS



After months of prolonged planning and re-scheduling by Ru3a Trustee Bruce Cable in collaboration with RMBC Tree and Woodland team leader Rebecca Dickinson, Rotherham u3a Woodland became a reality on 14 February. After two cancellations, caused by vagaries of the climate, on this St Valentine's Day morning the weather was kind. Early grey skies and mist gradually gave way to warm, spring sunshine. Rebecca and RMBC colleagues have provided advice and practical support throughout the process, including choice of site and varieties of trees most suited to the location, practical assistance with spacing and planting of trees, free biodegradable, protective tree sleeves and a gazebo for serving refreshments. Rows of saplings were laid out on the grass, with tools and accessories to hand. Over 50 Ru3a members gathered in Herringthorpe Valley Park to take part in the tree planting. Warm clothing, and boots were the order of the day. Shortly after a 10 am photo-call and having had a lesson in tree-planting from Rebecca, everyone set to work with a will. Within less than two hours, all the trees were firmly in the ground and satisfied participants were rewarded with a hot drink and a variety of biscuits

The u3a Heritage woodland includes 21 young, standard trees, 7 each of silver birch, bird cherry and rowan, plus assorted whips of oak and other British woodland species, to a total value of £1,000 contributed by the Ru3a legacy fund and donations from current members. An orientation board, dedicated to Rotherham u3a and showing the types of trees comprising the woodland, will be erected soon. The young trees already look at home. A wonderful, living tribute to all our members past and present, and a legacy for future generations to enjoy. A huge vote of thanks to all involved in the event, especially Bruce and Rebecca. Thanks also to Neil Kirkham and Anne Coggins (Photography group), Ann Walker and also to the Rotherham Advertiser photographer for capturing memories of this happy morning.

Tricia Macredie, Publicity Officer





Lesley White
(Chair of Ru3a) and
Bruce Cable
(Tree Planting
Project Manager)
planting a tree









MANY THANKS TO NEIL KIRKHAM FOR ALL THESE WONDERFUL PHOTOS. CLICK ON THE OTHER LINKS TO SEE MORE GREAT PHOTOS BY ANNE COGGINS AND ANN WALKER