

## December 2020 Newsletter - BEG Plants Trees and a Wildflower Meadow

Bexhill Environmental Group (BEG) is delighted to report that they have planted 999 new trees and shrubs across 5 sites this autumn.

296 trees were planted outside Highwoods Golf Club at the junction of Turkey Road and Ellerslie Lane on the 21st and 30<sup>th</sup> November with volunteers working under strict COVID-19 restrictions, working individually.

Meanwhile, the ground was being prepared for BEG's most ambitious project (The Bexhill Down Wood Project); to create a new wood on Bexhill Down under planted with wildflowers. The last few weeks have been busy preparing the ground: mowing, removing the cut grass, flail mowing, harrowing and finally sowing a mix of wild flower seeds. These have already started to germinate!

On Saturday Nov 28<sup>th</sup> volunteers from BEG and the Bexhill Rotary Club planted 525 trees in 3 sessions, throughout the day, continuing until after the moon had risen! These are 15 species of British native trees, mainly 90-120cm high, including field maple, sweet chestnut, wild cherry, red oak and rowan. An additional tree was added the next day.

Each new tree is enclosed in a protective tube held by a stake. They are each marked with a code to help identify the species to aid monitoring over future years. The information on the species code is available on the BEG website ([bexhillenvironmentalgroup.org.uk](http://bexhillenvironmentalgroup.org.uk)) if anyone wishes to identify specific trees.

Russell Dufton, a coordinator with the BEG tree group said "We would like to involve local schools to assist with measuring as it could be a valuable educational resource to watch the tree growth over time and compare species".

On the 7<sup>th</sup> November, 10 additional hazel trees were planted by Egerton stream near the fire station and more trees were also added near the sports gymnasium. Finally, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 162 trees and shrubs were planted at Bexhill Cemetery to form part of a boundary hedge.