



Children from Brooklands School planted about 180 trees.

GEORGINA MALCOLM

Hundreds of trees for millennium wood



Tree planting family from Norrice Lea, Ari and Valerie Landerberg and Lana, Hersby and Libby.

As part of Barnet's celebration of the new millennium the Council's Countryside and Parks department decided to plant a tree for every baby born in the borough in 2000 and at the same time create four new woods. One of the sites chosen was an area in Lyttelton Playing Fields once known as Summerlands.

First the planting area was fenced round. This is to protect the trees from wayward grass cutters or illegally parked vehicles, but the fencing contractor was asked so often what he was doing that he concocted an elaborate story about Barnet keeping sheep in Lyttelton Playing Fields.

On Sunday 26 November a contingent of Tree Officers and Countryside Officers from Barnet turned up, as did Bob Penny, Service

Manager (Parks & Countryside), who brought along a beautiful commemorative plaque made from a tree which had to be removed from a school play area when it was badly damaged in a storm. We had bags of trees (goat willow, osier, alder and hornbeam; all suitable for the damp conditions), a pile of bamboo stakes and a selection of spades; all we needed now was people.

When you arrange a tree planting you never have any idea if anyone will turn up. Luckily, people did, although quite a lot of them came to ask about the mythical sheep. Quite a lot more were really planning on taking their children to the play area and stopped at once to plant a tree or two, or came back later in more suitable clothes. An impressive number of parents bravely pushed their baby

buggies across the squishy ground in pursuit of a clear planting site and an equally impressive number of millennium babies slept peacefully throughout the entire proceedings.

After their lunch boys from Lubavitch House joined in and cheerfully planted the last 15 trees of the day despite the lack of correct tree-planting footwear or warm jumpers and fleeces. They also rushed round energetically mulching any trees which had not yet been done.

Thanks to all those parents and grandparents and brothers and sisters who planted trees, but a special thanks to all those without a millennium baby who came and joined in anyway. The total number of trees planted, 252, was reported to the Tree Council as part of a

World Record tree-planting attempt which took place between 24 and 26 November.

The following Tuesday children from Brookland School came along and planted a further 180 trees with the help of Barnet's ToTaP officer, Meike Weiser and her assistant Anna. The ground was even wetter than on the Sunday and everyone got extremely muddy, including the headmistress Heather Blackmore.

If you missed the chance to plant a tree in November you can help to plant Barnet's final millennium wood on Monday 5 February in Woodcroft Park in Burnt Oak between 9.30 and 2.00. You don't need to have a millennium baby; anyone is welcome to plant a tree.

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David Lewis with grandchildren Ella and Oliver.



Boys from Lubavitch House came to help at the end of the day.

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Cllr Gill Sargeant with Elizabeth and James Arram of Linden Lea who are third generation Suburb residents.



Mr and Mrs Billingham with Charlie planting a tree for millennium baby Tabitha.

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