

Waldringfield Hedge Heros

New Field Hedges and Hedge Restoration in Waldringfield

Autumn 2019 – Desperate to plant more trees in Waldringfield but running out of space, we hatched a plan to begin restoring field hedges.

Having secured permission to plant a 100m stretch of native mixed hedging, we realised we were too late to apply for free trees from the Woodland trust. Thankfully Suffolk Coast and Heaths kindly granted us nearly enough money to buy the 500 plants, canes and guards needed.

January 2020 – 12 village volunteers gathered to plant our hedge. We mulched the new plants with cardboard and straw which worked well to retain moisture in the very dry spring. We lost 10% of the plants to the drought, which we were not too displeased with.

March 2020 – Having secured permission to restore a second hedge site and to extend the one we started, we ordered lots more plants for free this time from the Woodland Trust for delivery in Autumn.

Summer 2020 - Waldringfield's wonderful tree warden Christine Fisher Kay moots the idea of creating a scattered tree nursery, where lots of villagers collect different native seeds to have a go at germinating at home, so that our hedging plants can all come from within the village in the future, requiring no transport.

Autumn 2020 – villagers collect seeds to begin scattered tree nursery.

December 2020 – 18 volunteers in socially distanced groups gather to plant over 350m of hedging at 4 different sites!

March 2021 – My crab apple seeds, harvested in October are just starting to germinate. However I'll still be ordering Woodland Trust saplings for next winter's planting – just in case.

Our first 100m stretch planted in January 2020



Extending the first hedge by another 200m in December 2020



All images by Sue Quick and
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Restoring an old hedge with more
gaps than hedge. This is beside a
well used footpath. We are
targeting hedges that will be
appreciated by both wildlife and
people

