

## **FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL - TREE HEAVEN IN 2007**

The inclement weather did not deter 20 people from attending the 'Tree Heaven in 2007' tree planting scheme on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008. A tree planting project for those wishing to dedicate a tree in memory of a loved one, as a celebration or purely to plant a tree in the Parish.

Following a suggestion from a member of the public to plant dedicated trees in the Parish, a meeting was held last year, attended by several Parish Councillors, Mr Bob Edney of the IWC Countryside Section and the Parish Clerk to decide which trees to plant where. It was felt the trees would help make area greener, as well as being a change from memorial seats.

The suggestions were put to the full Council, who fully supported the project. and it was initially agreed 5, then later 6, Oak trees could be planted at Granny's Meade, Bedbury Lane, 4 Walnuts trees could be planted at West Green at Middleton and 2 Rowan at the top of Queens Road, Freshwater.

The scheme was launched at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 2007 with much interest.

The next step was to contact utility companies – Gas, Electric, Water and BT to check there were no underground cable underneath where the trees were hoped to be planted. It was found that most utilities ran through the grass area at the top of Queens Road and Councillors decided to not go ahead with any planting on this site in case cables or pipes were hit when planting.

This left the two sites; Granny's Meade and West Green. The Clerk sourced trees, plaques and a contractor to plant and sent out information to those interested.

All Oak trees were taken up very quickly and one Walnut tree, for planting before the end of March.

The contractor used was Andrew Wallis, who has the existing Grass cutting contract for the Parish and who has also been used for other work, including, tree work, in the village by the Parish Council. Andrew McIntyre the IWC Parks Officer, obtained the trees for the Parish Council.

Plaques and stakes for the plaques were obtained from Signpost Express.

The Parish Clerk, Mrs Sally Woods who organised the tree planting project, said it had proved very successful and although not the perfect day for standing in a field – there was a good feeling and most of those having a tree planted stayed to see the others go in. Everyone commented how pleased they were with the scheme.

Photograph – should show Mr Robin Day, Interim Chairman of Freshwater Community Initiative holding their plaque next to their tree with Sally Woods (Parish Clerk) and everyone who attended the planting.

Those dedicating trees:

- 1 (Walnut at Middleton) in memory of late wife
- 2 in memory of late husband
- 1 a gentleman from members of a family, past, present and future
- 1 by a tree loving couple
- 1 by Freshwater Horticultural Society
- 1 by Freshwater Community Initiative – a local community group