

MADELEY & DISTRICT U3a – RISK ASSESSMENT AND SAFETY POLICY**TREE PLANTING GROUP**

The risk assessment and safety procedures below are managed by the Group Coordinator. Each Group Member is required to read these procedures carefully before joining the Group.

“” Tree Planting Risks and Precautions

We each need to consider risks which may be involved in tree planting activities, particularly in relation to our own physical capacities. Before the start of the season's meetings please read and take account of the following.

1. The main hazard seems to be in the hard physical work of digging holes or carrying cans of water, which can inadvertently cause injury, particularly to the back, of even the fittest person. But there are lighter jobs to be done, such as putting the tree in the hole and shovelling back the earth or fixing rabbit guards and light weeding later. Each of us should undertake ONLY those tasks which we ourselves judge to be within our safe physical capacity on the day and do those in a careful manner. It is particularly important to be aware of when we have done enough and to stop at that point.

2. Other risks might include accidents with tools, scratches or cuts and stings or bites.

We normally mitigate these by wearing sturdy footwear, protective gloves, and if desired, bringing our own insect repellent and balm. Anyone with a dangerous allergy must always carry their own antidote. Then we need to work with due care and attention to the safety of ourselves and others at all times.

3. We need to approach members of the public when asking permission to plant and in consulting with neighbours and residents about plans. Should we encounter any hazards, e.g. aggressive animals or possibly people, our policy always is NOT to proceed but to extricate ourselves as quickly and quietly as possible. 'When in doubt, don't.'

4. We all need to keep alert to avoid damage or injury to any third party, e.g. park cars considerably, close all gates, clear up, leaving nothing behind but the trees and their guards.

5. The Coordinator or Deputy will bring to each meeting a basic first aid kit, also containing a list of emergency contact numbers for all members of the group, plus a charged-up phone and a bottle of water.””

Group Coordinator – Name.....

M. R. Eagle
M. Ruth Eagle

Signature.....

M. R. Eagle

Date.....

19th Oct 2023

You should forward a copy of this completed form to the Madeley U3A Secretary, retaining a copy for yourself.