

## Harvey's account of tree planting in Snowdonia

My history of tree planting in Snowdonia goes back to about 1972 when Rosie and I moved to the hostel. I have always had a interest in gardening, and it did not take long for me to realise where the site for the Garden at Pen y Pass would be. On the Llanberis side of the building were the remnants of 18 months of builders' debris and rubbish - what better site could we have ever wished for? Some readers will remember that in 1973, the Government launched a scheme to " Plant a Tree in 73" and of course, tree planting became part of the Garden construction - when you next drive past have a look at the trees - mainly about 50 years old - they are all my "own" work!

This of course rolled on to Hafod y Gwynt - but there we inherited both a forest and a jungle! Jungle and forest management rolled on, so today we have the Gorphwysfa Millennium Copse, first planted in 2000 and added to since. More trees were added when we placed a seat in the Copse, first dedicated to Nancy and then to John and Nancy.



Having not visited the site since 2023, I was surprised to see how the existing trees had established. Added to this was that on Sunday, it would have been difficult to find a more windy, storm-blown site anywhere! However the trees (or some of them) are coping, and suddenly I realised that quite a few had been planted about 24 years ago (Millenium Year) and they were still growing! Without exaggerating a great deal, one birch could be 10 feet tall and a whole number of others are in the region of 8 feet. This is despite the lack of care, the visitation of several sheep and of winds, so the BBC tells us, that can be in the region of 90 mph!

So as we coped with the lashing rain, soggy boots and reasonably low temperatures, I hoped that the gang involved realised the good that we were doing for future generations, our trees would be capturing carbon and ensuring our towns and cities do not go under an everlasting cloud of smog and pollution.

We, of course, did not seek all the glory - we left at least 20 further trees for other members of the Gorphwysfa to plant so the glory is there to be grasped - so that in the future they can brag to their grandchildren, how much they contributed to the battle to control climate change in 2024.