

TREE MANAGEMENT NEEDS FOR THE PARISH OF HAWKLEY 2021

from Tree Warden Madeleine Allison

We are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful parishes in England. Throughout this most challenging of times the community has been brought together in sharing a renewed appreciation for our surroundings. Additionally, HCC has recently declared a climate emergency, and as we look again with more gratitude at what we enjoy here, we are also forced to admit that there is a great need to respond to changing circumstances by taken more immediate and effective measures to conserve and manage our very special woodlands and meadows, hedgerows and lanes.



Some of our residents have led the way in wonderful plantings in recent years, notably the new copse on the Goleigh Manor Farm estate, corridor mixed plantings on Hatchmoor Farm and Goleigh Manor, and many single plantings all over on private lands that have contributed much to the wildlife and native habitats. We are also fortunate enough to enjoy the benefits of well-established conservation bodies such as HIOW Trust and The Selbourne Partnership managing adjacent and overlapping areas which if cooperated with could go on enriching the natural balance and ease the

general maintenance of these precious places.

With the increased awareness of the need to respond effectively to escalating climate changes and the pressure on the environment due to rapid spread of local development EHDCC recently launched the initiative to plant a tree for every resident of Hampshire.

In the spirit of this very positive idea and learning from local experience, we submit the following, some of which, need attention in the very near future to avoid more expensive and drastic action. There is nowhere in our local rural environment that has been unaffected by climate change, as well as increased use of footpaths and byways by people, horses, bikes and vehicles. Our parish is of course, well endowed with woodland and hedgerows and fields, but the onslaught of recent diseases such as ash-dieback and sudden oak death have seriously affected tree health and surrounding environs.



THE HOLLOWAYS



We are fortunate to have in our parish a number of beautiful and rare ancient hollow lanes. Many are in urgent need of experienced management as the trees have been left to grow over the top pulling their weight down to lean dangerously over the roads and increasing pressure on the banks where they are rooted below. Coupled with the sudden and violent rainstorms and winds that we are experiencing more frequently the banks are showing destabilizing signs of erosion. We propose that we develop a long-term conserving strategy with the local landowners and interested

residents. We could also offer opportunities to learn the hedge-laying and coppicing skills that were once employed for managing these particular features of our landscape.

WILDLIFE AND SPECIES CONSERVATION

The |Selborne Partnership and HLOWN Trust, plan and plant and manage with wild- life corridors in mind, to fill gaps in hedges and bridge areas with species appropriate to our local habitats in cooperation with neighboring projects. We could carry on with this work by surveying our hedgerows and so on and look at remaining opportunities to connect these sections and encourage the rarer species of butterflies, small mammals and birds etc. to spread further and make their future more secure.



VALUING FALLEN TIMBER

A number of mature oaks and other trees have fallen in recent years that could have been planked and stored for the use of their owners but instead were logged or left to rot. Ready awareness of access to a local mobile sawmill facility could have led to this valuable and finite resource being put to good use.

ASH DIEBACK ... THE FALLOUT...

Most of the local woodland is in private ownership, though many footpaths and byways run through them. With the huge impact of ash-dieback now quite obvious everywhere we feel it is time to canvas the opinions and practices of those who are having to manage the situation on their own properties and compile a body of experience and knowledge that can be shared. The long-term outcome

of this devastating disease is as yet unknown; therefore, we would like to encourage a more open approach to combating it.

A PARISH TREE NURSERY....

Planting trees is a long-term issue in the rural environment and good provenance can play a vital part in the general, health of local tree populations. Trees are the oldest living organisms in our environment, and we never cease to underestimate the complexity of their life cycles and the species of life that are connected to them. Producing trees from local seeds and sources is best practice and brings the whole cycle of tree management into our own realm, increasing knowledge, awareness and responsibility of the people who are going to watch them grow into the mature specimens that the next generations can enjoy. A small patch of ground could be put aside for a tree nursery, somewhere where there is water and access. The need for this has particularly increased with the catastrophic effects of ash-dieback in our local woodlands, and the opportunity to identify resistant species locally.

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE



We are just coming through one of the most challenging times of our era, and everyone has sustained some kind of hardship. As a small rural community, we of course have been especially fortunate to have had this wonderful natural world surrounding us as a free and healing resource throughout our isolation periods. Planting a tree has always been an uplifting and hopeful gesture. In the spirit of this fresh appreciation, we are resolved to plant more trees, wherever there is an appropriate opportunity and at the same time fill the gaps in the rarer species count. The potential

new churchyard is undoubtedly one such opportunity. We intend to raise awareness and modest funds through means of a tree stall at the Empshott Church Flower festival this summer.

A TREE FORUM

We intend to hold an autumn tree forum in our village hall to discuss, display and enjoy the local tree landscape, its past, present and future, this autumn. There is a need for more information and advice to be made imaginatively available to engage the wider community. Many tree-related issues involve more than one party and the simplest solution to a problem with them often takes the easiest, more drastic, way out but not the most mutually beneficial one, and sometimes a few interested and well-informed volunteers can make all the difference. We would like to advertise the value of a parish tree survey, which would require the cooperation of the whole community.