



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

REC(20)07.02

Tree Warden's Report

During the autumn volunteers turned out twice, on the first occasion to clear ivy from the ash trees by the basketball net and also in the woods. The combined trunks of the ivy were as large as the actual tree trunks and took considerable physical effort with saws and crowbars, but now the ash trees are clear up to one meter from the ground. Higher up, the dying ivy will provide sanctuary to birds and insects for many years but will not add any new wind resistance.

The second turnout was to prepare and plant the gap in the hedgerow between the rec ground and Jenners Close, where there is now a mixture of small hawthorn, holly, willow and rowan, mostly protected by plastic spirals.

Other planting was as follows:

1. Approx 60 saplings were distributed to 12 Melton households who had responded to my offer in the 'Messenger'. The saplings were provided free by the Woodland Trust and should have a secure future in the residents' gardens, allotments and a field.
2. Three 6ft tall apple trees, from the closing-down stock of Crown Nurseries, which had been safely stored by Transition Woodbridge during the summer, were planted by me and John Duce in the grounds of Melton Old Church.
3. At the request of the Parish, and under advice from Phil the handyman who will have to mow round them, I planted 9 cherries and rowans in the greenswards near the end of Orchard Close
4. At the southeastern corner of the recreation ground where a dangerous tree had been removed by contractors and the boundary looks rather open, I planted a lime sapling and a couple of field maple (although the ground is difficult to penetrate because of the stump and other tree roots).
5. I have tried a few oak saplings in the cleared area of the woods and will plant more if they survive their first year under the canopy.

I now possess a quantity of substantial tubes and stakes and during this winter will call a working party to install them around some of last winter's planting beside the new ditch. Over 90% of the saplings there are surviving but they are strongly challenged by undergrowth and deer, against which their plastic spirals give little protection. All this plastic will be taken away in the fullness of time.

Next Spring, I will examine the hedgerows adjacent to the new building along Turnpike Lane and hope to use my residual stock of saplings to help repair the damage there.

Lindsay Dann, Parish Tree Warden

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