

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

TREE WARDENS REPORT 2012/13

No new trees were planted in this year.

The trees planted in Royal Oak Lane and up by the bottle bank in 2005 are doing very well and making good trees. The ones planted in the playing field in 2009 are making good progress and have benefitted from the wet winter.

I carried out the usual maintenance in the winter involving clearing weeds from the within the tree guards and cutting back lower branches to the trunk.

Ash die back

In general, ash trees they come into leaf later in spring than many other trees, often as late as the end of May. So if an ash tree does not have any leaves on it in April and May, it does not necessarily mean that it is diseased or dying, but by mid-June all healthy ash should be in full leaf. The leaf symptoms of Chalara dieback of ash are best observed in August and September because in autumn infected leaves can be confused with leaves that are naturally changing colour. Another sign is lens shaped lesions in the bark around branches.

I made a check in the autumn for ash die back but did not find any obvious signs locally. I will keep an eye on the new ash tree planted in the playing field and near the bins area.

I mentioned in my last report the large oak tree in Royal Oak Lane. The District Council tree officer advised that some limited removal of lower branches and crown reduction might be allowed if sensitively carried out by an approved contractor. The matter was left with the Parish Council and I do not know if any action is proposed. Certainly I think some minor works would be beneficial.

John Bows

May 2013