

Great Bricett Tree Warden Report for 2018

What does a tree warden DO? Well, I do much the same as many other people by admiring and enjoying our local trees, except that I take a keener interest when a tree or group of trees is threatened by disease, new developments, or is worthy of particular attention, particularly regarding size, which may require cutting back branches. I also encourage people to plant trees and liaise with our local council when appropriate.

INVOLVEMENT: Deodar cedar (churchyard), Norway maple (village green); “rare” Black Poplar DNA test (Releet Close); attractive avenue of Field Maples (Bricett Business Park); Queen’s golden jubilee memorial tree (Lime on public verge close to Mill Lane v Horse Chestnut at Riverside Cottage); mass planting of Native Deciduous trees on bund and hedgerow to screen huge new metal granary barn (field north of Bricett Hall); ageing Yew blocking church path (discussion with churchwarden); Sycamore tree on MoD land at T-junction of Roman Rd/The Street; Silver Birch, Rowan, Laurel, Prunus (new plantings around Releet Close pond); pruning management of trees (Releet Close/MoD housing estate); pollarded veteran oak (outside Base Garage)

PIONEERS: Suffolk pioneered the tree warden network over the whole country 30 years ago. However, due to austerity cutbacks, our local tree warden organiser, Alice Martin, had to quit her job a year ago. She helped organise annual tree warden conferences throughout the East of England along with the Tree Council, who play a leading role in promoting the Woodland Trust’s “Charter for Trees” unveiled a year ago, which MSDC solemnly signed as a “basis for harmony and mutual benefit between trees and people.” Praised by Cllr David Whybrow, Ringshall ward member and lead planning councillor.

TREE PROBLEMS: Ash Dieback and Acute Oak Decline prevalent here and all over East Anglia; Coopers’ thousand a farmland includes secret wild-flower meadow.

ODD FACTS: Tree-lover Judy Dench TV programme disclosed that trees “talk” to each other via mycelium thread-like connections underground. Trees pump millions of gallons of water from soil and turn carbon dioxide into life-giving oxygen. How’s that for recycling! Many trees outlive humans and easily outnumber our 60-million population. Sawpits still exist on Battsford Common that were used to make timbers for constructing Sir Thomas Gresham’s Royal Stock Exchange in 1565 in London. Forest “bathing” improves health.

MISSION: To locate, photograph, survey and report back on veteran/ancient oak tree Great Bricett landowner Oliver Cooper remembers climbing in Bricett Park woodland when a boy around 60 years ago, which is now out of bounds in a restricted part of Wattisham Airfield. I propose a meeting is conveniently arranged by me with Robbie and Oliver (and others) to re-discover this “lost” tree. *Draft report by parish tree warden David Payne dated 24/5/18.*