

Tree warden report 2024-5

Hedging plants and young trees were again obtained from the Tree Council (grown by the Woodland Trust) and distributed to anyone who wanted them locally. In addition the tree wardens of Suffolk have been growing trees from collected seed from good specimens growing locally. These have been distributed by us to land owners to infill gaps in hedges and to form new hedges in different places within the Parish. They are a mixture of native hedging with fruits and berries to benefit wildlife such as hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn, dogrose, guelder rose and so on. Any left over have been potted up to grow on and be planted next year. We have supplied some of the surplus to other projects within Suffolk such as community woodlands and agroforestry.

Hedging is supplied with a potential hedgerow tree every 10m such as an oak or a hornbeam. It is not always possible to plant these, for example where there are overhead wires as on Sandy Lane. However it is important to try and get hedgerow trees into the landscape wherever possible, perhaps using smaller growing species or more drought tolerant ones to allow for changes in climate. The existing Id hedge trees are placed under stress and suffering from successive years of drought, soil erosion, ploughing close up to them destroying their roots and removal of inconvenient lower branches. One of the aims of tree wardens is to increase the hedgerow trees throughout the parish, so field margins with or without a hedge and roadsides where the existing trees have died would be noted for possible planting in the autumn should the land owners permit.

What are the advantages of hedgerow trees?

Their roots bind the soil against erosion by flash flooding such as was frequent last winter

They provide homes for many birds and mammals also insects and other invertebrates.

Like all trees and plants with green leaves they help to fix carbon and remove it from the air so reducing global warming

They also release water into the air with a cooling effect, known as transpiration.

Hedgerow regulations

According to the new regulations discussed in the recent winter, a 2m buffer strip either side of the central point of a hedgerow, should not be cultivated and be established and maintained. It remains to be seen how this new ruling is put into practice. It would hugely benefit both hedges and hedgerow trees, guarding their roots from damaging cultivation. However the survey was done under the last government and it remains to be seen if it will be implemented by the present one.

May 5th – 11th is national hedgerow week (The Tree Council)



There will be a series of zoom conferences about all aspects of hedges. Also other events are planned eg in libraries events for children.

The Suffolk Tree Wardens are a lively group who grow and arrange for the planting of trees and hedges throughout Suffolk, to the benefit of the local inhabitants and the wider landscape.

We also comment on planning applications where trees are affected and wherever possible encourage the planting of the 'right tree in the right place'.

Christine Fisher Kay, Tree Warden

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