**Tree Warden Report 14th November , 2022**

I’ve had a few requests for hedging and Trees which I can meet from The Tree Warden allocation. Not sure when these will arrive.

I am informed that many many young trees around the county have died through the drought. Interestingly and sadly the majority would have succumbed because of the spring drought.  I cannot reiterate enough how important it is to water, where you can, newly planted trees for the first two years. Obviously only when the rainfall is not enough.

We can now see spectacular autumn colour  all around us and many of our established trees have had a super duper  year- growing more than ever. This has been noted by many seasoned tree watchers and they don’t know quite why.

We are being told to look out for trees NOT being able to let go of their leaves- not now but later in the winter- as this may be indicative of there not being enough energy in the tree to allow it to do this. We wait and watch.

Seed gathering has been taking place all around the county and back yard volunteers are bringing on all types of saplings for local project and gardens. Please bear in mind it’s about 2-4 years or more  before a seed gathered, successfully germinated and cared for can be planted into its final location. These are long term projects that require time, patience, compost, various pots and above all care.

One another note which surprised me is that the issue with our Ash Trees is very likely terminal over the next decade or so. I had hoped for pockets of resilience but this is increasingly being thought unlikely given the current monitoring and science.

Ive been learning about the collapse in our insect population since the 1990’s and will be looking for ways to increase the numbers the trees that attract insects. For example plant a Spindle Tree.  More on that next time.