

Tree Warden Report July 2024.

Usually at this time of year the advice is to water trees. This year we have had so much rain and it continues to fall that watering established trees is not an issue. Indeed, the lush growth we have seen and are continuing to see is fabulous. However, strong winds may pose a falling threat to trees in full leaf on wet ground. Let's hope not. It's still sunny and the wind will also mean that pot and young trees without much leaf and mature bark protection may dry out and need sun protection. Just keep an eye. Tree diseases seem to multiply but given identifying the same is difficult and there is very little you can do when you've identified such diseases ;I will only reiterate to look out for hairy grey caterpillars in profusion processing on Oaks and report the same. There are many of our familiar trees suffering from pathogen and predator attack. It's long depressing list of familiar names.

As we have such a lush canopy this summer due to the rain and mild heat you may find dead and stag headed trees more noticeable in the landscape. For me, this is particularly with the Ash. I had hoped the dire predictions for Ash Dieback would prove overdone but I fear, looking around, this may not be so. Yes, we have young vigorous Ash trees and some which appear immune but looking around I see mature Ash that looked as though it would dodge a bullet succumbing to death by a thousand cuts. Next time you are travelling between Rendham and Framlingham look at the many road side trees that are fading little by little every year. It's so terribly sad.

On a positive note the Hornbeam planted on the farm last year are doing very well. Finally peeking above their guards. Also the tiny cedar, catalpa and sycamore are doing well too.

Another success story is that the new hedges and change of regime to existing hedges (being cut less frequently) has produced some lovely blousy specimens which are providing secure nesting and plenty of food for the birds.

I can also vouch that 37 different types of bird were recorded in one morning in and around Rendham. Maybe they were always there and we didn't know about it or our farmer's are practicing nature friendly farming - maybe a little of both.

We can smile for this.

Rendham
July 2024