

Millennium Wood

The big jobs done during the last 12 months have all been in the Millennium Wood area. The top hedge from the Green Farm stile to the permissive path has been working its way across the ditch and into the path over the last few years. It has been cut back to the far side of the ditch & overhanging branches and brambles removed. Hopefully that will last another 5 years or so.

Also the hedge at the rear of the Community Orchard was overshadowing adjacent fruit trees. It has been squared off and height reduced as an interim to being laid in a few years time. The fruit trees in the Community Orchard have been pruned. This has been a mix of summer & winter pruning. Last autumn the trees produced a large crop of apples, some pears and quince, and a few plums. A guide to the fruit tree varieties was published in the LH News. Contractor Ian Walker has continued to mow the paths throughout the growing season. This work has again been done to a high standard and is paid for by the Parish Council.

The meadow area was cut and raked a couple of times last summer and this seems to be having the desired effect of improving the grass. (Hogweed, thistles and nettles are reducing). It is a bit of a tricky balance encouraging wild flowers into this area without cutting them down with the rough stuff. Hence not all the area is cut at the same time, and the aim is to avoid creating a sterile lawn.

Somehow brambles seem to be able to grow all year round, so there is always ongoing work of snipping them back from the paths.

Tree growth is steady with few losses noticed during the year.

Next year's big jobs will focus back on tree thinning in the main area.

Nature Reserve

An occasional cut is done here as required to keep the paths clear, and fallen branches moved.

Garden of Peace

Shrubs at the Old Post Office end have been clipped to keep them from growing too tall. The path has been mowed regularly, and the wider area strimmed after all the Spring bulbs have died back. There has been a noticeable natural increase in some of the Spring bulbs, in particular bluebells.

Spinney

It does seem to be filling up with a lot of dead wood these days!

A large ash fell across the path by the mill during squally weather recently.

A section has been removed to reopen the path. My inclination is to leave the rest as a feature unless anyone has any bright ideas for its use.

Ongoing work here has been cutting the paths, clearing back brambles and overhanging branches.

Fortunately we have not seen or been made aware of any ash dieback in the area yet.

In summary, nothing exciting; we just continue doing the background work to keep these areas accessible, natural looking, and a pleasure to walk through.

Mike Jones**31 March 2016**