

## Wingham Parish Tree Warden Annual Report

April 2023

Trees in the village are located on public and private land, many lie within the conservation area around the village centre and are subject to protections. The many species present contribute significantly to maintaining local bio-diversity. Trees in public areas are owned and maintained either by Kent County Council (KCC), Dover District Council or the Parish. The Parish Council employs a specialist (Invicta Arboriculture) to undertake an annual health and safety check to recommended standards on trees that it owns. This is mainly a visual inspection in late April looking for signs of damage, distress, disease or developing hollows that might require action. The inspection covers trees at the recreation ground, Wingham Green, the burial ground, Elgars Field and the High Street.

The last inspection (29<sup>th</sup> April 2022) identified a dead Field Maple at the recreation ground that was subsequently removed by Leaf Tree Services. An interim tree-warden handover inspection with Chris Pike was carried out in December 2022 noting two of the young saplings planted along the eastern boundary of the recreation ground had died, possibly due to the hot summer of 2022 or from mower damage. Replacements have been procured. The Turner's Oak in Elgars field also died and needs replacing with a new tree.

KCC were busy earlier in the year removing branches and pollarding some of the High Street trees considered a potential public safety hazard. A fallen Hawthorn near Anchor Cottage has been replaced with a Prunus Sunset Boulevard.

The Parish Council would like to take advantage of small tree planting schemes such as KCC's 'Plan Tree' but requires to identify land and seek permission from landowners. This will help improve aspects of the local environment and contribute towards reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels responsible for global warming and climate change.

Martin Smith (Tree Warden)

