

## Wingham Parish Tree Warden Annual Report

April 2024

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. Work on trees of a certain size specification within this zone requires consultation with Dover District Council. The many species present contribute significantly to maintaining local bio-diversity, so work carried out must respect provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Trees in public areas are owned and maintained either by Kent County Council (KCC), Dover District Council or the Parish. Most of the trees along the high street and on verges are owned and maintained by Kent County Council who periodically remove branches and pollard trees considered a potential public safety hazard. Each year the Parish Council employs a specialist 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, Elgar's Field, and the High Street

The last inspection (27<sup>th</sup> April 2023), carried out by Invicta Arboriculture, identified three items for action, all now completed. Firstly, the young Turners Oak at Elgars Field that had died was removed and will be replaced by an oak sapling that has taken root nearby. Secondly, a young ash tree died on the boundary of the recreation ground and was removed. Thirdly, a snapped branch on a mature walnut tree at the recreation ground was removed. Additionally, three planted saplings on the engineering works side of the recreation ground died and were replaced by the Parish Council. Base areas of young trees were mulched for protection and moisture retention. One tree behind the tennis courts came down and was cleared. The tree at the Remembrance Garden was pruned to protect the flag pole and hedges around Elgar's field were pruned.

The parish council would like to take advantage of small tree planting schemes should opportunities for sites arise from local 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)

