

SGEG – Tree succession in Shamley Green

To replace the declining horse chestnuts on the southern approach to Shamley Green, a line of elm trees was planted in 2023 by SGEG, with generous sponsorship from Sue and Alan Pavia. One horse chestnut had already been felled in 2022 for safety reasons, but it was clear that the others would eventually need to go. Well now the council tree surveyor has recommended two more for felling, which will probably take place soon, and our little new elms will start to come into their own.



These elms are doing really well, in spite of the really difficult summer we have just had. They are a hybrid variety known as 'Rebona', which has proved to be a very successful street tree in Europe, and which is highly resistant to Dutch elm disease, as well as being heat tolerant, wind resistant, and resistant to flooding, so we hope they are a good choice to cope with climate change.

Condemned Horse Chestnut and a young 'Rebona' elm

Elsewhere in the village, there used to be seven big manna ash and whitebeam trees by Easteds, overlooking the Cricket Green, but gradually honey fungus has taken its toll and now there are only three. Expect to see a new tree planted here soon, hopefully one which will cope not only with climate change but with honey fungus too. With the hornbeam planted in 2017 we hope these will eventually restore the tree-lined appearance of our cricket green.

Near the Duck Pond we plan to plant another weeping willow to take over from the existing one there which may not have many years left having lost a big branch in 2023.

Down by the playground at Lords Hill there is a big flowering cherry which has come to the end of its life – a pity as the local children enjoy climbing it! It will be replaced with another cherry species, one with single flowers which will be more beneficial to pollinators than the existing double flowered variety.

For more information see the 'tree stories' pages on our website
<https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk>