

## **TREE WARDENS REPORT 2023**

Our Tree Warden Francis Muldoon has been very busy over the past year.

Working with our outgoing website editor Carol Garrett a lot of information about his work is now available on the village website at [Tree Warden » Welcome to Worlingworth \(onesuffolk.net\)](https://www.onesuffolk.net) including a link to the District Council's interactive Tree Preservation Order map. Parishioners are encouraged to take a look to see which trees in the village are protected and to help identify any trees that are not currently listed, but may benefit from such protection. During the course of the year a new Biodiversity Officer has come into post at the District Council and it is hoped that Worlingworth can be assessed fully again for TPO registrations soon, as the last full survey was carried out in 2005.

During the course of the year the tree numbers in Worlingworth have been increased with a number of schemes:

- A new woodland was planted at Worlingworth Hall with around 150 mixed saplings that were donated under the Woodland Trust scheme.
- A further 42 Woodland Trust saplings were added to an existing wood at Grove Farm, whilst the remaining 8 that had been claimed under the scheme went to a site in Monk Soham. The Woodland Trust agreed that a few of the trees could be planted outside the parish after our Tree Warden was approached by a resident of the neighbouring parish that currently doesn't have its own tree warden.
- 40 Woodland Trust saplings were planted to form a hedge at Cordy's Meadow, whilst a further 60 were used to supplement an existing hedge at The Carlings. It is hoped that more Woodland Trust saplings can be secured for land at Water Lane and near the Church.
- 50 potted saplings were donated by a private benefactor and distributed throughout the village to various householders.

All of the above was achieved at no cost to the Parish – just hard work and dogged determinism from our hard-working Tree Warden.

- In addition, four further native trees (a crabapple, a holly, a sweet chestnut and a flowering cherry) were funded from the Parish Council's 'Greening up the Village' fund and the Parish Council agreed to match-fund a beech hedgerow planting scheme in March for a site at Maisie's Meadow to provide a perimeter to a wildflower meadow.
- Also, still top of the agenda is looking at the feasibility of organising a community orchard, for which at the moment a suitable site in the village is being sought.

As Tree Warden, Francis has engaged in a variety of training opportunities with the Suffolk Tree Warden Network, enabling him to understand more about the health of trees in the village, so that he can offer advice to residents.

One such training day had covered how technology can give insight into the health of trees, with the Universities of Newcastle & Strathclyde currently operating a scheme in Norfolk whereby trees are monitored with a sensor in their trunk. The team behind the study are keen to extend the monitoring to trees in Suffolk and if anyone is interested in having their trees monitored in this way then please get in touch. Volunteers would need to be able to upload data periodically from the tree monitors.

The Tree Wardens Network is undertaking a national survey of Black Poplars, which is a critically endangered species (there are only about 6,000 left in the country). The trees need to be planted in male/female pairs in very wet conditions to thrive and the mature trees can reach up to 50 ft tall, so they need a very specific location. It is possible that there is a location in Worlingworth that may be suitable and Francis is working with the landowners to find out whether two trees could be supplied, but the decision will be dependent upon a successful survey from the National Tree Wardens Network.

Parishioners are reminded that the Parish Council has a fund to help promote tree planting and if anyone feels they have a suitable site please do get in contact with our Tree Warden.

The Parish Council would like to thank Francis for all his hard work and efforts on behalf of the village.