

**SEA Report to STC
Services Committee
February 2026**

Elwell Woods

1. The wet conditions have made it virtually impossible to do much work controlling the heliotrope.

2. We removed the dead apple tree. RHS Advice had offered to test some roots for fungus – but when we removed the tree, there was a complete absence of the smaller roots that were the size needed for examination.

We think that the apple probably died of a fungus disease rather than drought, so it would not be sensible to plant another apple tree in that location, at least for several years. Instead, we propose to plant some donated seeds of meadow annuals there in Spring.

3.



In the areas labelled M and N in the map, one large tree fell, bringing down one or two trees from the understorey. One dead tree has also been removed. We would like permission to replace these. This is an opportunity to increase the diversity of tree species – Elwell Woods are dominated by sycamore. We propose natives, for example wild cherry, downy birch, field maple and rowan – we can source these from Forest for Cornwall.

Tree Saltash

We have been asked by a resident of Fearnside Way to plant three **flowering cherry** trees in a small grassy triangle there. Forest for Cornwall have conducted searches for services for us, which revealed a water main towards the lower part, so (as usual) we shall plant at least 2 m away from the main. Cornwall Housing have granted us permission to plant here. These are the only new trees we plan to plant this season, phase 3.

Two more trees from previous planting phases need replacing – a **Gleditsia** in Fearnside Way, a **malus** at the entrance to Montgomery Close.

We already have your approval to purchase and plant a **silver birch** at Celtic Cross (9th October 61/25/26). We now seek approval to use the funding already approved in budget code 6589 EMF Community Tree Planting Initiatives to buy the three flowering cherries and the replacement Gleditsia and malus, to be planted on land owned by Cornwall County. (Funding from Forest for Cornwall for these replacements now depends on grant application and so would not be available in time for the present planting season.) The total cost will be well within the £400 allocated for purchasing trees.

Public liability insurance to cover our planting and maintenance of trees on Cornwall land is covered by our contracts with Cormac Volunteer Scheme, renewable annually.

Tree labels

Finally, we are working with Forest for Cornwall to provide name labels for trees, specifically for Salt Mill: we will follow the usual precautions to make sure the trees are not harmed by the label. Labelling is known to increase an appreciation of Nature. Residents have asked us as Tree Wardens whether the trees in Fore St could be labelled: does the Committee approve of this? We anticipate this would not require funds from Saltash Council.

Adrian White

SEA