

SEA/ Tree Saltash Report to STC Services Committee December 2023

SEA are pleased to collaborate with Services committee in trying to restore Nature in our urban environment. We label this programme Cherishing Habitats, and will use this logo as the programme grows.



The support of the Council and Services Delivery team have been literally essential to the Tree Saltash project.

Allotment

We now have received the Co-op Local Community Fund money so will be implementing wheelchair access, raised planters and wildlife interpretation as agreed. There will be work days/mornings for volunteers, and in Spring an 'eat your greens' initiative, growing spinach, chard, etc to supplement poor diets.

It would be really helpful if Services Delivery could deliver a nice big pile of woodchip for pathways.

We will welcome the community allotment sign which we understand is in progress; it will hopefully avoid confusion among neighbours.

Meadows

Drought and hot, dry June combined to severely effect growth of wildflowers in the 2023 season at both Pillmere Meadow and St Stephens Cemetery. We have agreed with the Assistant Manager a mowing regime, basically mowing only pathways and access between March and August/September; main cut in August/September, date by agreement, with SEA to rake up; and mowing as necessary between October and the following February.

Tree Saltash

The Saltash May Fair committee wanted to plant an oak in Longstone to commemorate the Coronation, which tallied with Tree Saltash aim to replace the beech felled because of disease earlier in the season. The Mayor formally planted the 'Coronation Oak' on 30th November 2023, with many schoolchildren and Cornwall Councillors.

Seventeen standard trees have been planted by Tree Saltash so far, with a few more to come. These include two hawthorns to replace an ash felled in St Stephens Cemetery. In addition, some native hedgerow will be planted in Tobruk Road and Frobisher Drive. We are grateful for the cooperation of Saltash Town Council and Forest for Cornwall, and particularly to the Council for funding trees and accessories, and for watering during drought, which make this planting possible again this year.

Elwell Woods

Significant work was completed by SWARA in 2012, mainly on the Celtic Cross and orchard with additional planting. But since then the woods have deteriorated, becoming typical unmanaged woodland that is not good for either wildlife habitat or human recreation. SEA are exploring professional consultation hopefully to establish a long-term plan for improvement and maintenance. SEA will discuss progress with the Council at all stages.

We note the fine, mature Monterey pines here. Since they are about 100 years old, we intended to plant replacements for the future. However, because Saltash is within a Demarcated Area of

Phytophthora pluvialis <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/phytophthora-pluvialis>, new plantings are not permitted.

Victoria Gardens: SEA bed

This bed has now become overgrown with ox-eye daisies. We are no longer growing vegetables because of the number of dogs that urinate on the bed. We are currently replanning the bed for next year, to be smarter and a better advertisement for wildlife gardening, including a small bird-bath.

Adrian White
SEA, Tree Saltash
December 2023