

# Rope PC Tree Warden's Report 2021

It is important to draw attention to the role of trees in the environment of Rope and their ongoing protection and maintenance. Residents of the parish need to be reminded of the trees that are protected by preservation orders and how replacement planting is important to offset past losses and maintain the distinctive character of the landscape in south Cheshire and Rope in particular.



*The Berkeley School Oak*



*The largest Oak in Rope on Laiden Ave*

*Both protected trees*

Rope parish has a number of common or English Oak trees as well as Lime, Ash, Sycamore and Beech trees, some of which are protected, but sadly not all. It is vitally important that residents take care and look after many of these mature trees that have stood in their place for, in some cases, two hundred years, many of them planted by local farmers or through natural seeding before many of the houses were built in Rope. The trees are our life support system, they produce oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and provide support to the wildlife of Rope. Any pruning or lopping of branches should be carefully monitored by us all and residents should only use qualified tree surgeons to carry out work on established trees, whether they are protected or not.

Having said that there seems to be scant regard by some to the careful preservation of the habitat, in particular work recently carried out on trees by the stream on Evergreen way footpath. It has not been ascertained whether this work was carried out by the council or not, but the random felling of established trees by the stream in early 2021 and the state that the area has been left in is a cause for concern.



*Established trees cut down and left in an untidy state off Evergreen way*

Other trees have been under threat in the area and one oak tree (apparently unsafe) was felled by Rope Garden nursery in 2020. The tree was not protected and was situated in the verge on Gresty Lane. All residents and businesses should be reminded that the Cheshire East Environmental Operations team should be informed of any plan to fell trees.

Trees in Rope Lane have also been under threat but due to the diligence and reporting to both the parish council and Cheshire East planning department by concerned neighbours the owners of the property have been made aware of the importance of protecting the trees, particularly as they are protected.

I myself have managed to produce a few oak saplings from the acorns collected in my garden and these have now been planted around the parish where I hope they will flourish and grow for future generations to appreciate and protect.

The Queen's platinum jubilee year in 2022 has been heralded as a 'Tree-bilee' by Prince Charles. Communities will be encouraged to 'plant a tree for the jubilee' from October 2021. The Prince calls the initiative, "a statement of hope and faith in the future". From June the Woodland Trust will offer schools and communities the chance to apply for saplings to plant. It will be important for Rope as a community to come together to take advantage of this offer and hopefully involve our two schools and their pupils in planting some commemorative trees in the parish.

As we know trees are the longest living species on earth, they give us a link between the past, present and future. It is important that in Rope we collectively continue to protect and nurture our trees for a healthy environmental future.

Andy Pennance