

Steyning Parish Council

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 01/03/2019

Month No: 11

Committee Report

Amenities Cttee201 Highways & Lighting

1001 HDC Cleaning Grant

1004 Reimbursed Charges & donations

Highways & Lighting :- Income

4200 Street Light Energy

4201 Street Light Maintenance

4202 Lamp Post Testing

4210 Road Sweeping

4211 Town Improvements

4259 Grit

4260 Pressure wash High St

Highways & Lighting :- Indirect Expenditure

Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve301 Playing Fields

1004 Reimbursed Charges & donations

Playing Fields :- Income

4252 Electricity

4310 Grounds Maintenance

4312 Waste Removal

	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
	0	19,564	19,564	19,564			0.0%
	29,886	0	(29,886)	0			0.0%
	<u>29,886</u>	<u>19,564</u>	<u>(10,322)</u>	<u>19,564</u>			<u>152.8%</u>
	640	600	(40)	600		(40)	106.7%
	1,728	1,750	22	1,750		22	98.8%
	0	100	100	100		100	0.0%
	13,869	15,147	1,278	16,529		2,660	83.9%
	0	1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%
	0	600	600	600		600	0.0%
	0	500	500	700		700	0.0%
	<u>16,238</u>	<u>19,697</u>	<u>3,459</u>	<u>21,279</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,041</u>	<u>76.3%</u>
	<u>13,648</u>						
	0	462	462	500			0.0%
	<u>0</u>	<u>462</u>	<u>462</u>	<u>500</u>			<u>0.0%</u>
	0	462	462	500		500	0.0%
	4,960	9,163	4,203	10,000		5,040	49.6%
	1,016	850	(166)	850		(166)	119.5%

Continued over page

Steyning Parish Council

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Phased Budget Heading 01/03/2019

Committee Report

	Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Year To Date Variance	Total Annual Budget	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
4320 Play Equipment Inspections	799	970	171	970		171	82.4%
4341 Repairs & Tree works	1,379	1,837	458	2,000		621	68.9%
4352 Litter and Bins	3,391	3,124	(267)	3,412		21	99.4%
4360 Allotment Maintenance	1,277	3,300	2,023	3,600		2,323	35.5%
	<u>12,821</u>	<u>19,706</u>	<u>6,885</u>	<u>21,332</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,511</u>	<u>60.1%</u>
	<u>(12,821)</u>						
Playing Fields :- Indirect Expenditure							
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve							
302 Allotments							
1005 Allotment Rents	4,040	3,600	(440)	3,600			112.2%
	<u>4,040</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>(440)</u>	<u>3,600</u>			<u>112.2%</u>
4253 Water Charges	458	550	92	550		92	83.2%
	<u>458</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>83.2%</u>
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure							
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve							
	<u>3,582</u>						
Amenities Cttee :- Income	33,926	23,626	(10,300)	23,664			143.4%
Expenditure	29,517	39,953	10,436	43,161	0	13,644	68.4%
	<u>4,409</u>						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve							

Subject: FW: Steyning Rifle Range - DMMO Application DMMO Addition of FP across Steyning Rifle Range (CC803.15660)

Dear John

I write with regards to the Parish Councils application to add a number of route across the Steyning Rifle Range. An initial check of the application to ensure that we have everything necessary in order to formally accept has taken place and has highlighted that the land over which the claimed routes cross is accessed with permission of the landowner and also designated as open access land <https://steyningdownland.org/downland/sharing-rights-of-way/>. What this means is that the routes claimed are being used by way of permission of the landowner and not "as of right".

For DMMO applications based on user evidence, the relevant statutory provision in relation to the dedication of a public right of way is found in Section 31 of the Highways Act 1980. This requires consideration of whether there has been use of a way by the public, as of right and without interruption. Use of the land 'as of right' means without force, without secrecy and without permission. It appears in this case, the use of the land is with permission of the landowner, therefore, not "as of right".

In view of the above, I would be grateful if you could please confirm whether you wish to proceed with your application as made.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Ami Dye

Ami Dye | Legal Assistant - Environment | West Sussex County Council

Telephone External:

Address: County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RQ | DX: 157410 Chichester 8



The Legal Services of Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and West Sussex County Council working in partnership

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ITEM 8.5



Gale Tree Consultancy

Tree Condition Report

Steyning Parish Council

February 2019

Gale Tree Consultancy

Tel: 01723 375741

Email: office@galetreeconsultancy.co.uk

Web: galetreeconsultancy.co.uk

Client Clerk to the Parish Council Steyning Parish Council Steyning BN44 3XZ

Location Memorial Playing Field and Canada Garden Allotment

Date of Inspection 12th February 2019

Inspector Andrew Gale *Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A*

Our Reference TCR/135/19

Instructions Received

I have been instructed by the Clerk of the Parish Council to undertake the follow up decay evaluations as recommended in the tree condition report TCR/118/18.

General Description

Memorial Playing Field is an open expanse of playing field with an enclosed play area within its centre, a cricket and football pitch towards the north and a community orchard to its south; the area is extremely well used by dog walkers, fitness enthusiasts.

T4/799 apple tree was highlighted as requiring further investigation due to the presence of fructification of the decay fungus Dryads saddle (*Cerioporus squamosus* formerly *Polyporus squamosus*) emerging from an open wound on the north east side of the stem. A bench seat is positioned directly beneath the tree on its north side.

Canada Garden Allotments is a small site with trees located along its east and west boundary fence line.

T1/802 Sycamore was noted as having a fructification of the decay fungus Dryads saddle (*Cerioporus squamosus* formerly *Polyporus squamosus*) emanating from a wound on the north west side of the stem at 1.5m.

Method of Inspection

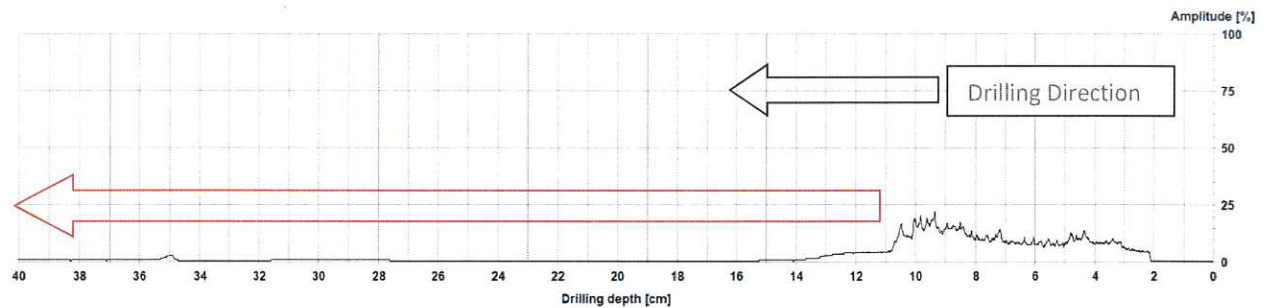
A plastic headed mallet was used to 'sound' the stem as an initial indication of the presence of decay and a thin steel rod used, where required, to assess the depth of decay in cavities and concavities between buttress roots.

To further assess areas of concern an IML Resi F400 microdrill, which measures the drilling resistance of a very fine drill bit to a depth of 40cm, was used for further confirmation.

Director: Andrew Gale – Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A
Registered Office: 34 Carpenters Meadow Pulborough West Sussex RH20 2HQ
Gale Tree Consultancy is a trading name of Andrew Gale Tree Surgery Ltd.

Registered in England & Wales Company Number: 4915639 VAT No. 831 3224 66

Significant drops in drilling resistance are indicative of decay or hollowing; on the example shown overleaf, decay is indicated from a depth of 10.5cm to the end of the assessment and highlighted by the red arrow:

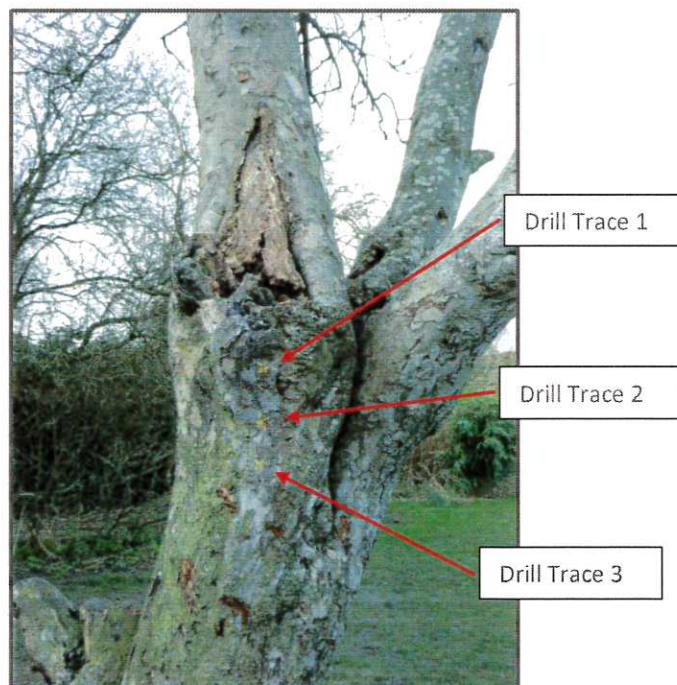


Results of Inspection

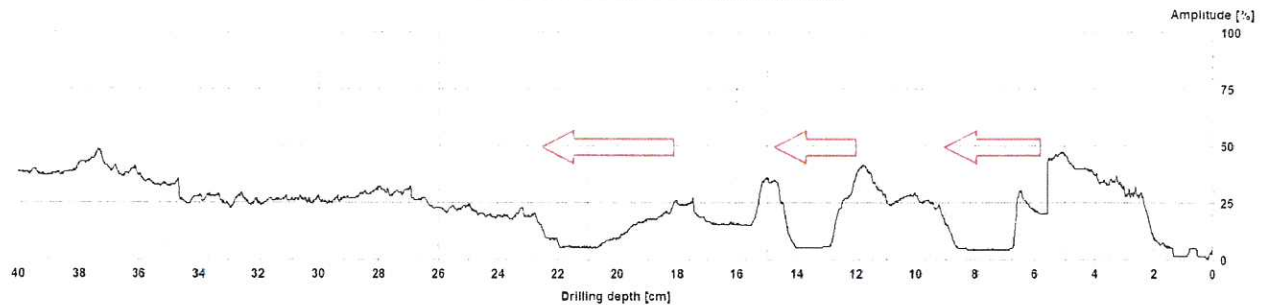
Memorial Playing Field – T4/799 Apple

The tree bifurcates at 1.4m into 3 stem sections with the open wound being located on the eastern stem section; the union is included with the remaining two stems being more subordinate in nature. The wound appears to be the result of a failed union at 1.7m with the remaining stem experiencing further wounding (on its east side) which has occluding wound forming around its edge.

To assess the condition of the wood around the location of the now desiccated fructification, the Resi F400 was used in three locations – see below – the stem diameter at the points of assessment averaged 41cm:



Drill Trace 1 – 1.6m above ground level on the north east side of the stem

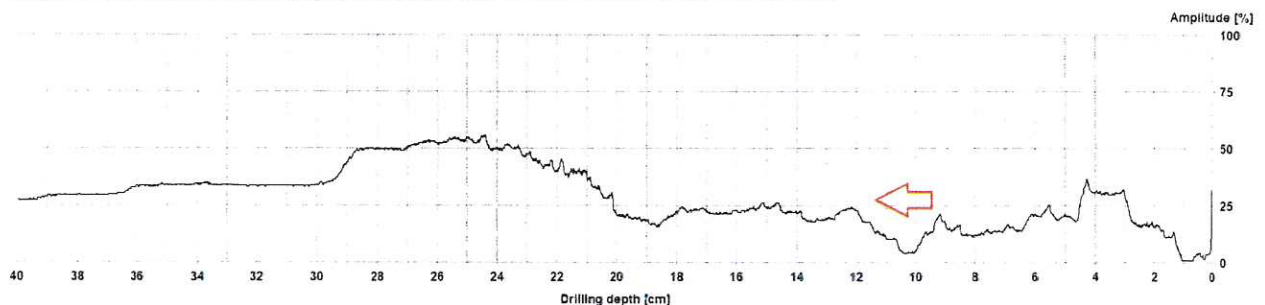


The drill trace indicates three areas of low drilling resistance along the 40cm drill length.

The first drop in resistance occurs between 5.5cm – 8.5cm with the sudden drop suggesting the drill entered a cavity, met an area of higher drilling resistance at 6.5cm but dropped again. The second drop occurs between 12cm and 14cm, the slower nature in the drop suggests an area of incipient decay has been breached. The last area of low drilling resistance is located between 18cm and 22cm with the gradual reduction in resistance being indicative of incipient decay.

The remaining drill trace indicates a slow increase in drilling resistance to the end of the assessment suggesting more sound wood is present.

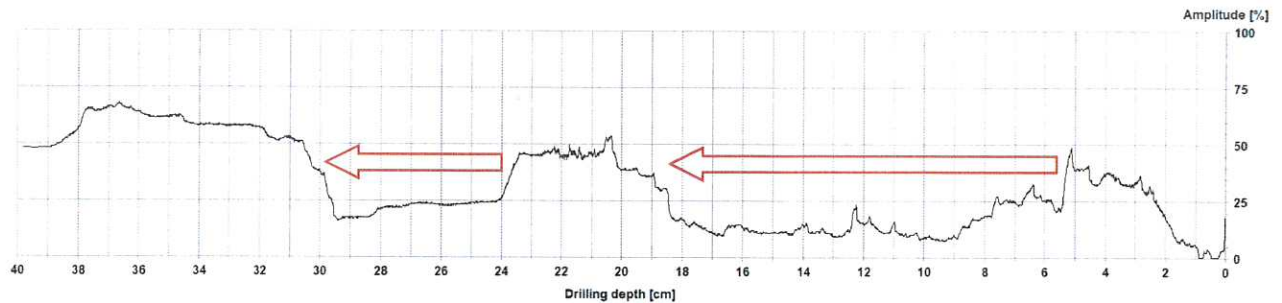
Drill Trace 2 – 1.5m above ground level on the north east side of the stem



The drill trace indicates that from the point of drill entry the resistance peaks at 4.2cm and subsequently drops off with a variable reading reaching its lowest at 10cm suggesting an area of incipient decay has been reached.

After 10cm the gradual increase fluctuates in resistance dropping slightly at 18.5cm after which it begins to increase peaking at 25cm. The low drilling resistance from 29cm to the end of the drill length does suggest an area of incipient decay may be forming.

Drill Trace 3 – 1.4m above ground level on the north east side of the stem



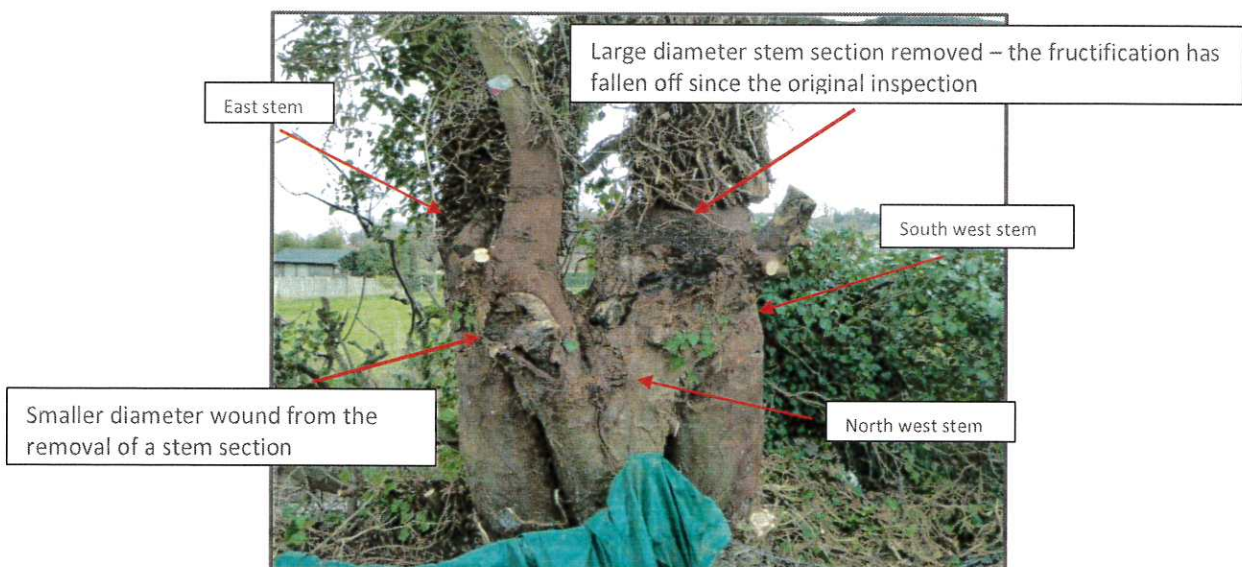
The drill trace indicates two main areas of low drilling resistance. The longer area is between 5cm and 18.5cm which suggests an area of decay, incipient in nature, is present. From 18.5cm to 23.5cm the resistance increases briefly however it drops again to a depth of 29.5cm from which point the resistance increases markedly indicating sound wood is present. The resistance begins to drop off again at 38cm to the ends of the assessment.

Canada Garden Allotments – T1/802 Sycamore

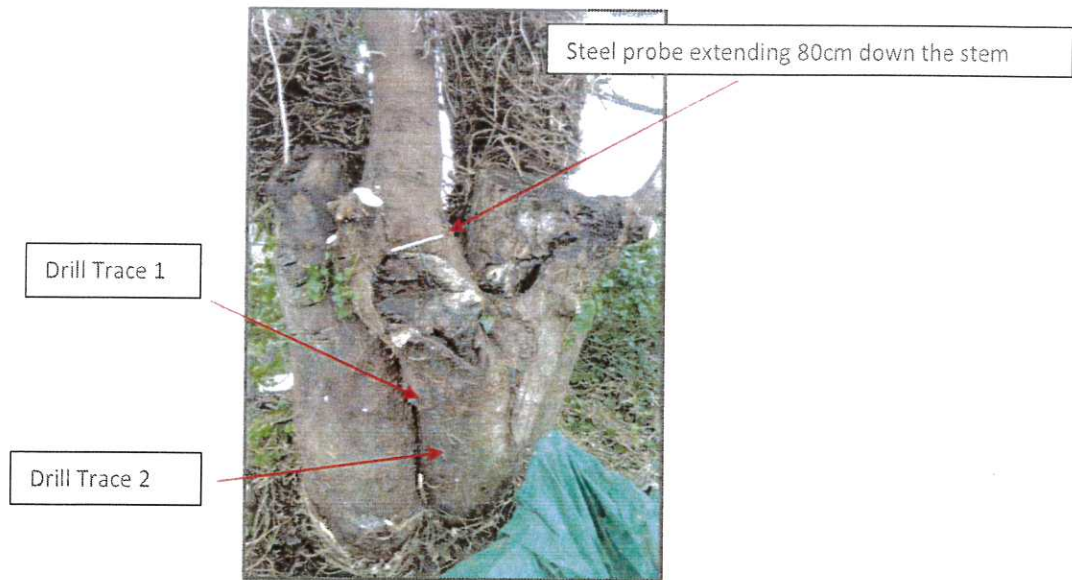
To assess the condition of the wood around the cavity the ivy was removed. Upon its removal, it was clear that the tree has three main stem sections emanating from ground level on the bank. The north west stem has had a 45cm diameter limb removed in the past resulting in a cavity forming down into the stem section.

A smaller stem (approximately 20cm in diameter) has also been removed on the north side of the main stem with further decay forming down the stem section. A mature piece of epicormic growth is now forming part of the crown on the west side and extends over the neighbouring allotment.

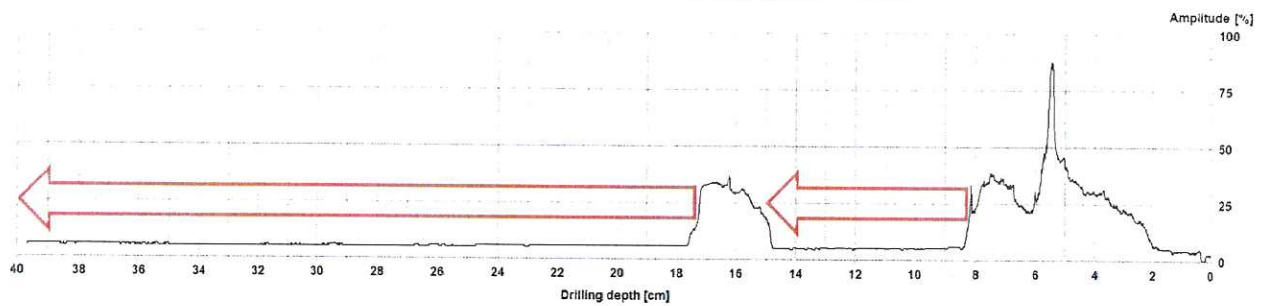
The image below shows the lower stem of the Sycamore cleared of ivy stem and the three main stem sections:



The image overleaf shows the steel probe extending down the stem section of the small wound to a depth of 80cm; to assess the quality of the wood around the areas of cavity, the Resi F400 was used in two locations – the drill traces are over leaf:



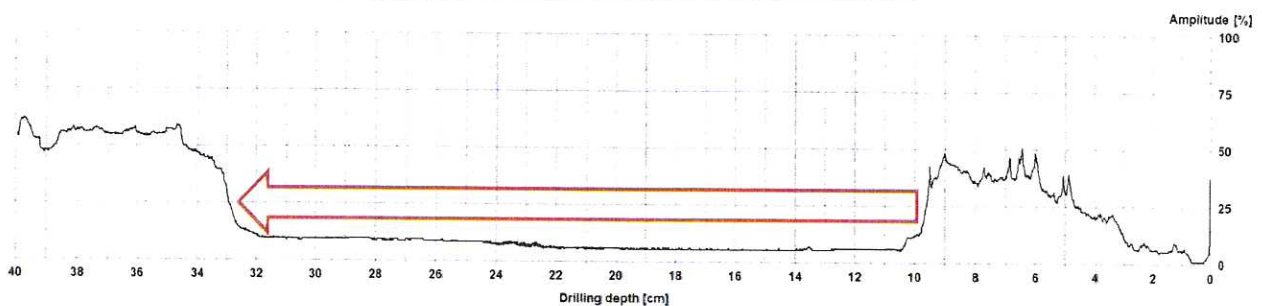
Drill Trace 1 – 90cm above ground level on the north side of the north west stem



The drill trace indicates an initial area of high drilling resistance peaking at 7.5cm dropping sharply at 8cm. This would suggest the drill entered the barrier zone created by the tree and reached an area of incipient decay before then reaching an area of extensive decay/hollowing.

The drill trace picks up slightly between 15cm and 17cm after which it enters another area of extensive decay/hollowing once again which extends to the end of the 40cm assessment.

Drill Trace 2 – 70cm above ground level on the north side of the north west stem



The drill trace indicates an initial area of high drilling resistance to a depth of 9cm after which it drops indicating the drill has breached an area of incipient decay. The drill trace then plateaus to a depth of 32.5cm indicating that the drill is passing through the cavity. The gradual increase in resistance would suggest the drill has entered another area of incipient decay before reaching an area of wood with a high resistance.

Summary of Results

Memorial Playing Field – T4/799 Apple

The decay fungus Dryad's saddle is associated with a selective white rot where the lignin in the tree is broken down quickly whilst the cellulose is broken down at a slower rate. The resultant decay forms a cavity however this tends to be restricted to the area of colonisation. Multiple fructifications over a large area would suggest widespread dysfunction/decay is present.

The drill traces indicate that beneath the open wound on the north side of the stem, an area of sound wood is present with an average depth of 5cm after which incipient decay is forming. Drill Trace 1 suggests an area of more advanced decay/ cavity formation has occurred as indicated by the sudden drops between 5.5cm-8.5cm and 12cm-14cm.

Drill traces 1 and 3 both suggest that towards the end of the assessment the resistance increases indicating sound wood. Drill Trace 2 plateaus towards the end of the drill trace with a reading more consistent with incipient decay. To reduce the lever effect on the stem section/point of wounding, the overall crown should be reduced lightly by a maximum of 1m, this should be carried out by the end of 2019.

The drill traces suggests that the decay is limited to the central portion of the stem section and along with the recommended reduction in crown volume I do not consider the tree to be an immediate risk. However, this may not always be the case and as such I would recommend a further inspection in three years' time or sooner should its condition deteriorate or the fructification begins to emanate from other parts of the stem.

Consideration should be made to relocate the bench seat to a position away from the tree to reduce the risk further.

Canada Garden Allotments – T1/802 Sycamore

Drill Trace 1 indicates extensive decay and hollowing with sound wood only appearing in the first 7.5cm. Drill Trace 2 indicates sound wood either side of the cavity suggesting the tree is compartmentalising the decay. At this moment in time I do not consider the tree to be an immediate risk. However, this may not always be the case and as such I would recommend a further inspection in three years' time or sooner should its condition deteriorate or the fructification begins to emanate from other parts of the stem.

Recommendations

-  Implement the tree work in the time period specified
-  Re-assess in three years or sooner should the trees local environment change

Gale Tree Consultancy

Tel: 01732 857321 Fax: 01732 857322 Email: info@galetreeconsultancy.co.uk Web: www.galetreeconsultancy.co.uk

Signed:



Andrew Gale Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.Arbor.A



Date: 22nd February 2019

Director: Andrew Gale – Dip Arb L6 (ABC) M.rbor.A
Registered Office: 34 Carpenters Meadow Pulborough West Sussex RH20 2HQ
Gale Tree Consultancy is a trading name of Andrew Gale Tree Surgery Ltd.
Registered in England & Wales Company Number: 4915639 VAT No. 831 3224 66

From: Steyning Parish Council - Clerk
Subject: FW: TPO permission received quote 6859

Scheduled this work in as follows if permission agreed at Committee to proceed

Work below for **Wednesday 24th April 2019** at Memorial Playing Field & Rublees Allotment

No	Tag No	Species	Actioned Required	Priority	
1	796	Norway maple	Remove declining branch ends back to sound wood	HS3	£100.00
3	798	Goat willow	Remove deadwood greater than 25mm over the playing field	HS3	£100.00

Abbey Road

No	Tag No	Species	Actioned Required	Priority	
2	806	White willow	Remove	HS3	£212.50

Godstalls Lane

No	Tag No	Species	Actioned Required	Priority	
1	803	Horse Chestnut	Remove east stem to source	HS2	£100.00
n/a	n/a	Various	Prune the offending branches to achieve a suitable height clearance of 2.5m	HS2	£175.00

Total Cost Ex VAT requiring permission to proceed - £687.50

Work below to be completed - **Wednesday and Thursday 24th and 25th July 2019**

Works already agreed

Cripps Lane

No	Tag No	Species	Actioned Required	Priority	Cost ex vat
1	807	Sycamore	In the interests of good arboricultural practice, prune new growth back to previous pruning points	GM	512.50
2	808	Sycamore	In the interests of good arboricultural practice, prune new growth back to previous pruning points	GM	512.50

Subject: FW: Rugby in Steyning

Subject: Rugby in Steyning

John, I spoke with [REDACTED] last week. I have also spoken at length with various council members.

We - Steyning Rugby - Are looking to take the next step in our club/community development. This to provide minis (5-8 year olds) rugby to the community.

We believe there is demand for this and know that many children cannot like others get to Shoreham or Pulborough for this.

We plan to run some tag rugby taster sessions in May or June and will/would like to use the public space at the cricket field.

Any reasons why we cannot do this on a Sunday morning from 10-12?

Thanks in advance

Richard

Item 9.2

Cost of Skip Hire

Initially three required at £205 plus VAT Each

2 x Rublees each end and 1 x Canada gardens

Total cost - £615.00

From: Steyning Parish Council - Clerk
Subject: FW: Installing Festive lighting on West Sussex County Council Streetlights
Attachments: midhinge example hinged.jpg; lower hinge example.jpg

Dear all,

As legislation changes from time to time we would like to take this opportunity to send this refresher regarding the process of applying for authorisation from our PFI service provider to attach festive lighting to West Sussex County Council streetlights.

It became apparent in 2018 a number of you may not be aware of some of these changes and therefore we wanted to give you plenty of time to make any adjustments to your displays to maintain compliance in readiness for the 2019 Festive season.

- No decorations illuminated or otherwise can be attached to raise and lower or mid hinged lighting columns. These columns are normally located within pedestrian areas where access by a cherry picker type platform is not possible.
- Sockets on lighting columns can only feed the authorised decoration that is physically attached to the column that has that socket on. For example electrical feeds must not be run at high level away from the column in any circumstance. This includes and not limited to any catenary cables to Christmas trees, electrical supplies to lights in trees or buildings or to any other decoration or to another lighting column.
- As your installers are working on highway furniture that is electrically supplied, installers must be HERS Registered. This means you can be sure your contractor has the relevant training to safely install or take down decorations on the highway.

If you currently have decorations mounted on raise lower columns these will not be authorised in 2019 even if you had them installed previously, therefore you need to look to relocate these to either columns that are not raise lower (hinged) and apply for authorisation or attach them to another location. If you are not sure if your current decorations are attached to raise lower columns there are some examples of what you are looking for attached to this e-mail, or your installer should be able to inform you. Any decorations found attached to hinged columns without authorisation will be removed by the service provider.

Where you may have taken electrical supplies in the past from the top of a column across to other decorations, trees, buildings, other lighting columns or Christmas trees you must now look to install a feeder pillar at your chosen location and take the supply from there, this feeder pillar can be fed from a WSCC column via a private cable or it can be connected directly to the electrical supply authority (UKPN/SSE) main cable. This feeder pillar would become your responsibility along with any supplies taken from it.

Our PFI service provider is able to supply quotes for this or you can use a 3rd party, however if using a 3rd party and you wish to connect the pillar to a WSCC column using a private cable then our service provider will need to make a chargeable inspection of the works before connection, this is not required if you connect the feeder pillar direct to the Supply Authority or if the service provider installs it.

We ask you to follow the process carefully because street lights are designed by their manufacturers only to bear the weight of a lantern. Any additional weight, load or attachment added to the street light must be thoroughly assessed prior to installation to ensure it poses no risk to public safety.

There are **3 stages** to completing your SSE Festive Lighting Application, please carefully read the information attached before you make your application. You can find all of the attached information, along with downloadable forms at <http://www.lightsoninwestsussex.co.uk/Public/Festive-Lighting.aspx>.

Please note that applications should be received by SSE by 1st September to ensure they will be processed in time for the festive season.

Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourself with this process.

If you are not the person responsible for installing Festive lighting, would you kindly pass this onto the appropriate person.

Failure to gain the relevant permission prior to installation on West Sussex County Council Streetlights may result in you being asked to take your equipment down or lead to equipment being removed.

Kind regards,

Streetlighting Monitoring team

Subject: FW: Rural Services Network call on Government for a Rural Strategy

Subject: Rural Services Network call on Government for a Rural Strategy

Dear colleagues

On 1st March, the Rural Services Network launched a campaign calling on the Government to develop a Rural Strategy.

"Rural Communities are frequently overlooked in a policy environment dominated by urban thinking and policy concerns. This often means communities either miss out on the benefits or experience unintended consequences from policies which are poorly thought-through from a rural perspective. It is time for this 'rural mainstreaming' to stop. People living in our towns and villages simply cannot afford to wait any longer for politicians to take their concerns seriously and act on them," **said Rural Services Network chief executive, Graham Biggs.**

"If rural communities are to be sustainable, the Government must seize this opportunity to work with communities to produce a long-term, funded rural strategy which recognises the contribution rural areas make and have the potential to make to the wellbeing and prosperity of the nation as a whole."

We are asking all of the Parish Councils and organisations in Rural Areas to support our call and sign up to support our campaign.

Please share this email and the signup link with your fellow Councillors, colleagues and residents.

A Press Release with more information about the campaign can be found here:

<https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/government-urged-to-produce-new-rural-strategy-ahead-of-brexite>

I have attached our document 'It's Time for a Rural Strategy' which sets out the reasons why we believe a Rural Strategy should be developed.

Kind regards

Kerry Booth
Assistant Chief Executive

There will also be a **People's Choice** award – voted for by the general public as their favourite across these three categories.

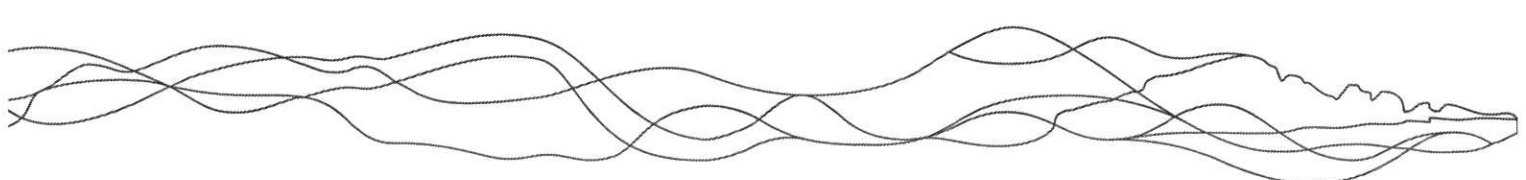
Tim added: "We are welcoming entries of all sizes for each of the categories."

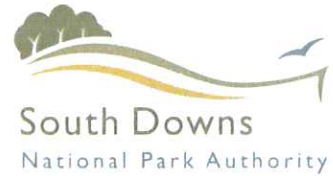
Entries can be submitted by anyone who considers the scheme suitable for an award, including the owners, architects, designers, developers, parish councils, amenity societies or any member of the public. In all cases the consent of the owner must be obtained prior to making a formal nomination.

For more details and to download a nomination form visit www.southdowns.gov.uk/designaward

The deadline for nominations is 5pm on June 28.

Completed entry forms should be e-mailed to design@southdowns.gov.uk





11/03/2019

Innovative design to be recognised as new awards are launched for National Park

An exciting new awards scheme is being launched to promote outstanding and innovative design in the South Downs National Park.

The South Downs National Park Design Awards celebrate projects that have made a standout contribution to the landscape, heritage, built environment and local communities.



The awards will recognise and promote high standards of design and raise awareness of the positive contribution that good design can make to the quality of the local environment.

Tim Slaney, Director of Planning at the South Downs National Park Authority, says: "The awards are a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of the contribution that good design can make to the quality of our local environments and communities.

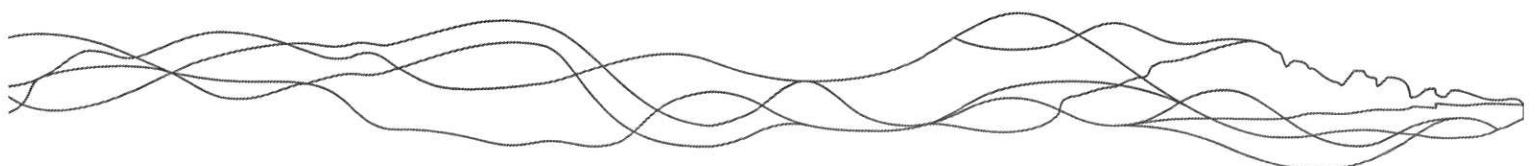


"There is design work across Hampshire and Sussex that pays homage to this special landscape and has the highest standards of architectural and landscape design, conservation and sustainability. It's time that these kind of inspirational projects are recognised and we're expecting the standard of the competition to be very high."

A special awards ceremony will be held on November 12 – tying in with the anniversary of Hillary Benn signing the National Park's official designation.

Nominations are now open in the following categories:

- **Residential (individual building/housing development small/large)**
- **Non-residential (commercial/industrial/infrastructure)**
- **Conservation (landscape/buildings/gardens/craftsmanship)**



Subject:

FW: SDS Newsletter



**Welcome to the Steyning Downland Scheme
February Newsletter!**



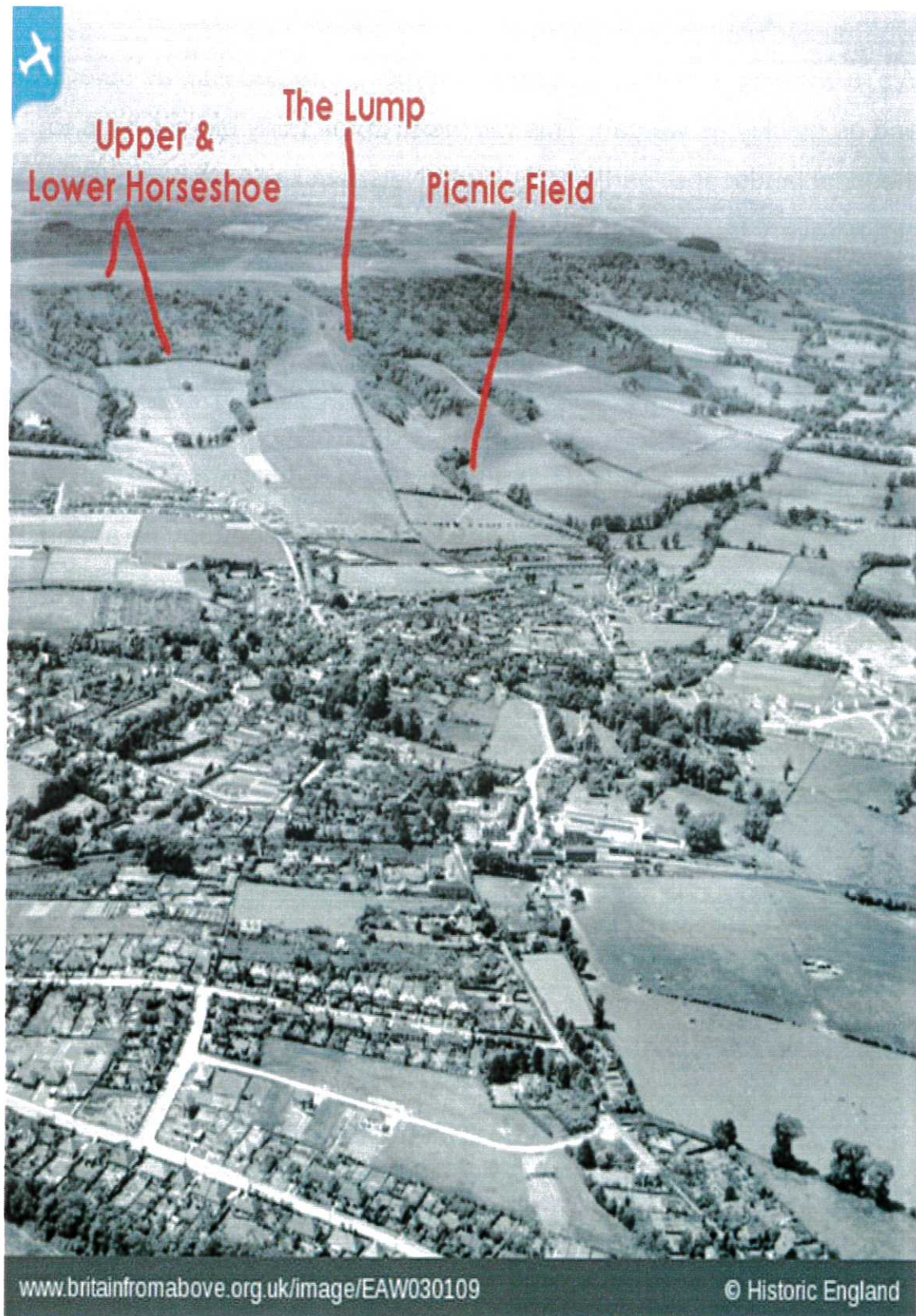
Tree Conundrums

Not the jolliest item to kickoff with, but perhaps the most important: Ash Dieback disease has really taken a hold on the Lower Horseshoe - we estimate at least a third of the Ash trees there are already infected. It's caused by a nasty little fungus with an unpronounceable name - you can [read more about it here](#).

Infected trees quickly become vulnerable to sudden collapse and that's the immediate concern along the informal paths and Rights of Way on the Steyning Downland Scheme. Over last weekend, a large Ash fell near our Newham Lane entrance, damaging the SDS information board there (see pic).

We're working with local foresters to remove infected Ash as safely and as quickly as we can. This will mean some fairly big changes to the local landscape, particularly in the Newham Lane area, where almost every tree seems to be affected. From now to the end of March, we're also planning some significant clearance along the Upper Horseshoe path, which will involve temporary diversions of the Bridleway.

A large proportion of the trees on the Horseshoe are Ash and so at the moment it's looking like big changes to the landscape may lie ahead. It's worth remembering though that nothing stays still in nature. The Horseshoe Woods we know now, are in fact only around 50 years old. As the photo below from 1950 shows, there was still open grassland and scrub on the Horseshoe, well within living memory (*with thanks to Mark Emery for sending this on*):



Grazing Update

This year we're planning a step up our conservation grazing programme. The aim is to turn around the fortunes of our ancient, species-rich chalk grassland, which continues to be under attack from invading Tor grass and Upright Brome.

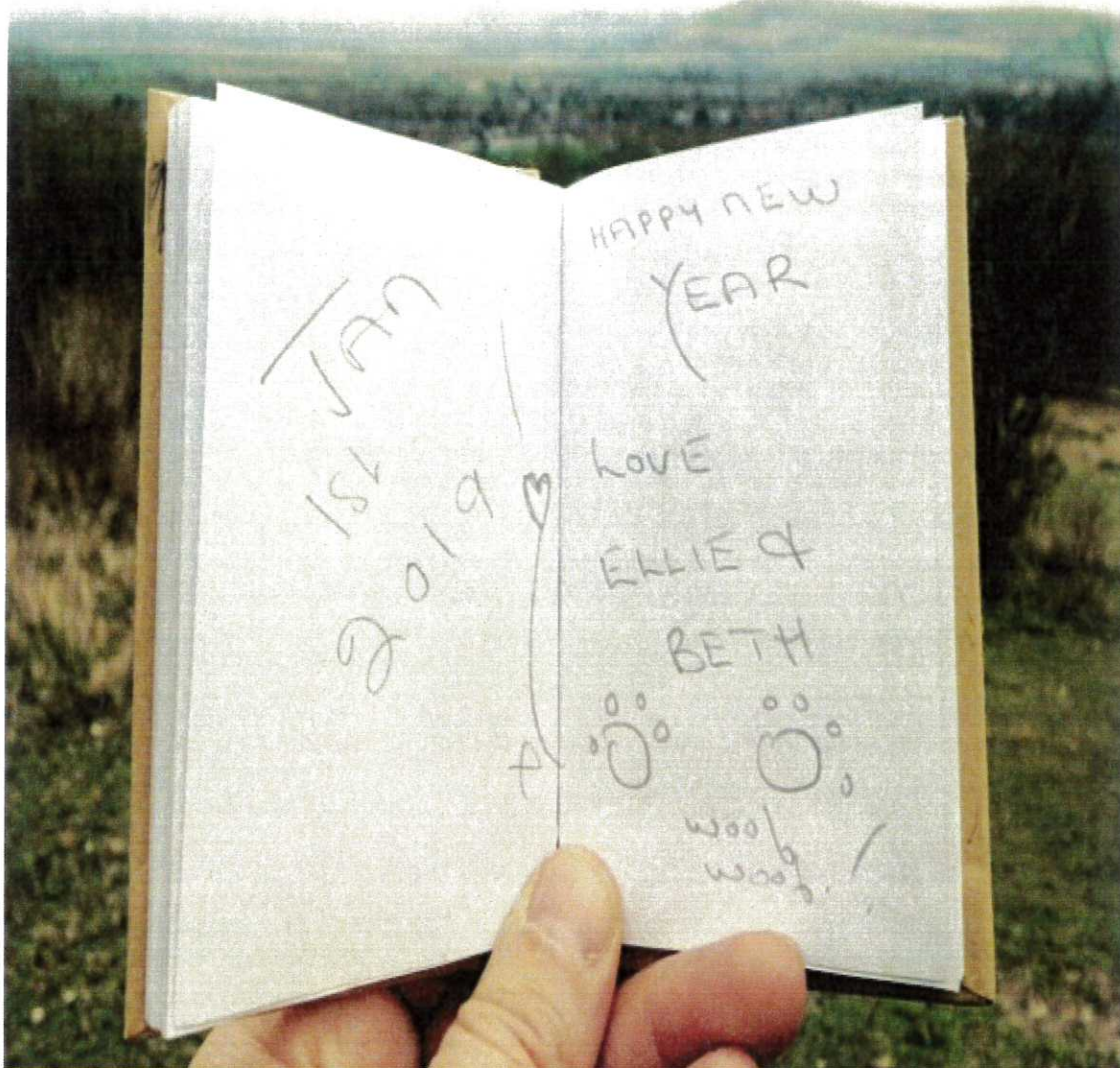
In the next few days we'll be welcoming a squad of twelve new, four-legged recruits to Pepperscoombe. These are traditional Sussex cattle, directly descended from the Wealden draught oxen of medieval times. They're bigger than Dexters but share their placid temperament and ability to eat almost anything. Meanwhile the Dexters will remain stationed at the Rifle Range and Steyning Coombe through to the summer. More updates to follow . . .



Poetry

We continue to be amazed and delighted by the feedback to our poetry tin experiment - all sorts of poems, limericks and various unclassifiable notes continue to be written almost daily. Thanks so much to everyone who has contributed. We're working with Emma-Jayne Hughes of Chichester University and her students to put these into some kind of order and we're planning a publication for this autumn - so please do keep them coming!

For those who haven't already noticed them - we've stationed four tins at viewpoints across the Steyning Downland, each containing a blank notebook, pencil and pencil sharpener. Thanks to SDS volunteer, Roger Brown, these are maintained regularly and when full, the notebooks are returned to the SDS office for sending on to Emma. Look out for more news on a publication later this year . . .





Watch out for Wildlife . . .



As a general rule, the Steyning Downland Scheme encourages people to get out into the great outdoors and experience nature, but we also need to respect the needs of wildlife too. That's why we're asking people not to disturb two small but important bits of the scheme, particularly as we move into spring.

The wet woodland on the left, as you walk up Nightingale

Lane towards the Rifle Range (see map, below) is a haven for birds. In the winter it's home to Smew and other winter residents, while in spring, the thick scrub is perfect for Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler.

Further into the Rifle Range, on the right, just past the Wild Play Area is an unimportant looking old fence-line. In fact this houses the main hibernaculum for our local Adder population. The most recent survey data ([from NARRS](#)) doesn't paint a particularly rosy future for this species - in fact there's a real risk it may go extinct as a breeder in the UK at current rates of decline.

Unfortunately dog walking, particularly when dogs are off the lead, is pretty disastrous for these species. That's why we'd be most grateful if everyone could avoid those areas and keep their dog under control while walking near them - thanks so much!



Events Past, Present & Future



Back in December we hosted a team from the Arts Council for a wild day out scrub bashing and lighting fires. New experiences were had and new friends made - in fact rumour has it, some of our Dexters have taken up painting. If you're looking for a team building day with a difference, [do drop us a line](#).

Apple Tree Planting . . . Saturday 23rd February, 11am



On 23rd February at 11am, everyone's welcome to pop to the Big Picnic Field where [Steypning Community Orchard](#) are establishing a traditional orchard, using local apple tree varieties. We'll be planting the next batch of trees so it'll be the perfect opportunity to get some exercise *and* learn about our local fruit tree heritage too!



If you're a regular reader of these newsletters you'll already know about [Rough Runner](#), the 'It's a Knockout' on steroids coming to Wiston on 13th and 14th April. It's a great way to raise cash for your favourite charity and make a complete fool of yourself in the process - needless to say, the Steypning Downland Scheme has been invited to participate.

Astonishingly, people pay up to £48 each to do the 5km circuit, but if you join the SDS team, you'll pay absolutely NOTHING . So far we have 3 confirmed team members!. If you'd like to join our team, do please [e-mail](#) - we'll have more information on how you can sponsor the team soon . . .



We're working hard to bring you an interesting, challenging and entertaining mix of events this year. It looks like there'll be a mixture of some old favourites and some new, with something for every age group . .

But there's still room for more - if you have a particular interest and an idea for a guided walk or some other nature-related event on the Steyning Downland, do please [get in touch](#).

Website Update for 2019



. . . and finally - we've had a bit of a refresh of our website recently so do take a look - it now includes our brand new [Mission Statement](#), [Vision Statement](#) and [Values](#) so at last, we now know what we're supposed to be doing . . .

Thanks for reading!

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