

Plant of the Month

LIME TREES



This time, instead of a Plant of the Month, we are sharing what we saw going on in the cemetery on our latest survey. There has been a lot of essential work carried out by tree surgeons which has resulted in some of the trees looking temporarily very sad. Cutting back growth on the Lime trees (known as pollarding) needs to be done every 2 to 4 years or the branches will become too long and will snap or break off due to the weight of the timber. Overgrowth at the top of the trees (crown reduction) is used to let in more light. It all looks a bit drastic, but new growth doesn't take too long. This work has to be done before the end of February because of legislation which protects the bird nesting season.

Work has also been carried out on the lovely Cedar trees which are now really old. Their branches become very heavy and brittle and likely to break off, which is why the council closes the cemetery when windy weather is forecast.

It will be interesting to see, on our future visits, what effect all this will have on the other plants in the cemetery as some may do better with more light but some shade lovers may not. The way the air circulates around the site may be altered and we may find changes which could be related to this effect.

Early Spring is a lovely time in the cemetery and a good time to look out for Snowdrops, Crocus and the native wild Daffodils. If you look at our website, you can find articles about these and many more.