

New Trees in Shamley Green



Old and new together

You may have noticed this line of new trees on Duck Pond green alternating with the big horse chestnuts there. Unfortunately the horse chestnuts are unhealthy and will sooner or later become dangerous if they start shedding branches etc. so they will have to be felled in the next few years, and in fact one has been cut down already.

What to replace them with was a tricky question: we needed to find something to cope with frequent waterlogging, but also possible drought and high temperatures as we had in 2022 and will doubtless have again with the changing climate. The species we decided on in the end, with advice from the Waverley Borough Tree Officer and endorsed by the Parish Council, was a hybrid 'Rebona' Elm. These should be an ideal replacement visually for the felled trees.

The Rebona elm's parents are the Japanese elm *Ulmus davidiana* var. *japonica* and the Siberian elm *Ulmus pumila*. It has proved to be a very successful street tree in Europe, and is highly resistant to Dutch Elm Disease which has all but wiped out our UK population of elms. Not only that, Rebona is also heat tolerant, it's wind resistant and it has proven to be resistant to flooding, so a good choice to resist climate change!

We are very grateful to the local residents who have funded these trees, and to others who have donated the new trees on the greens of Hullmead and Lords Hill. All of these very generous donors have paid through the Womersley Foundation, which attracts Gift Aid enabling us to purchase bigger trees – and thanks to Claire Merriman for

obtaining them for us and sending her team out to plant them all.

All our new trees have been registered with the Queen's Green Canopy, a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invited everyone across the UK to plant trees. Following her death and the wishes of His Majesty the King, the initiative has been extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour the Queen.

For more information on all the trees in our village both new and old, see our website www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk/trees where you will find maps showing what is growing where, and an inventory with more details.



A young *Ulmus*
'Rebona'