

Botus Fleming Parish Council Biodiversity Report January 2019.

Tree Warden:

Having had the training for the above role, I would like to get parish residents involved in planting trees. There is every possibility of losing most of the nation's ash trees with Ash Die- Back. This makes it even more urgent to take measures to replace these trees with suitable replacements. Trees are a very cost-effective and natural way to increase carbon capture and help slow down global warming. They also happen to be rather beautiful!

There are several ways to acquire suitable trees at no or very little cost:

1. **The Woodland Trust** provides packs of young trees for schools and communities free or very cheaply.
2. **The Tree Council** will do the same providing that some children under the age of 16 are actively involved in the scheme. Communities have to come up with 25% of the cost.

One of the trees on offer by the Woodland Trust is the wild cherry. Botus was formerly very much involved in cherry growing. Sadly there are now only a couple of very sickly old survivors of this former heyday, so replacement with the wild trees would be something of a tribute to our market gardening heritage. The fruit of the wild cherry is only really edible by birds, but the spring blossom would be just as spectacular.

The Environmental Growth for Rural Parishes Pilot.

Cornwall Council is now looking for parishes that would like to be part of this pilot. I had communications about this with Jenny Christie, the officer responsible, last year. The details have now been finalised, and we have been invited to apply.

Why do this? Well, here's why:

*By joining the pilot you will be one of the first parishes to implement Cornwall's ground breaking Environmental Growth Strategy, and Cornwall's Pollinator Action Plan at a local scale. Through the pilot, we can help you plan and make decisions that will make your area **better for people and better for wildlife.***

We will have the help and support from CC officers to devise a plan for environmental growth in the parish. It can be informed by local people and implemented at our own pace.

This seems to be too good an opportunity to miss, especially as the advice and support we would get is in short supply and would probably cost us a great deal from the private sector.

Importantly, the tree planting and the Environmental Growth Initiative need suitable areas either of public land or the cooperation of local landowners to carry out the projects. Ownership of the recreation field and the meadow would thus be crucial to successful bids to access these support streams.

Malcolm Fletcher January 2019.