

## **Meldreth Parish Council Annual meeting 2021 Tree Warden**

There have been very few applications for tree work during this year of Covid 19. As with planned work across many fields, planning applications have often been on hold.

I applied for a Tree Protection Order for 3 mature beech trees in Elin Way last year. They are on a triangle of land opposite the Parish Room. The trees had been lopped, and reduced in size a few years ago, and it was a matter of concern this might happen again. It is rare for a tree to regain its natural shape and beauty if heavily cut back. Unfortunately my application was turned down on the basis that the beeches are no longer perfect specimens. Beech are a majestic forest tree, and need a lot of space. These are perhaps too near housing. So the lesson is to check the eventual size and shape of a tree you plant and make sure that it will fit the site.

Heavy Winter rainfall last year provided good growth for trees and shrubs in our village. It just shows how variable Meldreth weather can be, since we have now had the driest and coldest April for years. But the earlier rain will have stood trees in good stead. They are great survivors.

Margaret Lynch. Tree Warden