

So, if it's not one plague it's another! Ash die back has not gone away, it's just that it's been overshadowed by you know what!! It will still have to be dealt with sooner or later and when the trees start crashing down on roads, cars, houses, PEOPLE, it will be bit late to start making plans and creating a budget to deal with the problem. Prior to the outbreak of Coronavirus there had been talk of the authorities ( Highways Agency; Rail Network; various County councils etc.) getting their assorted acts together and setting aside millions, - MILLIONS, to be able to fund the work needed to make the roads , railways and all public spaces safe from falling trees and branches. And it doesn't stop at the large agencies! Any landowner, however small with Ash trees growing on their land will be liable for the damages, deaths arising!

On the wider front, Elmswild lost an old friend recently! We had 3 rare black poplar trees standing – just about, on the edge of the pond at Lukeswood. We knew that one of them was on borrowed time, because it had a large bracket fungus just above the soil line, and tests had shown that the trunk was about one third rotted through! Some time, probably during the night, of the 28<sup>th</sup> of April it fell down, there was little wind, so it didn't blow down as such, just fell down! Given that there are only some 6,000 in the country, it is a sad loss, particularly at this time when people “exercising” are beginning to appreciate our open spaces and the wildlife that they contain.

John Ibbetson .

**Parish Tree Warden.**

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