



GOODBYE OLD FRIEND

The horse chestnut tree in the churchyard has now reached the end of its life, and is scheduled to be cut down on 12th November. This tree has been an important part of the street scene in Main Street for as long as anyone can remember, and will be greatly missed. Some parishioners will remember collecting conkers from this tree when they were children, and doing the same thing with their own children and grandchildren.

The tree has had some rot in the southern side of the main trunk for many years, but over the last summer the previously sound wood at the base of the western side of the trunk has become infected with *Ganoderma*, a serious fungal parasite. Many of the leaves at the ends of the branches dropped off over the summer, and most of the rest turned yellowish, showing that the tree was dying. If possible, the base of the trunk will be cut into a seat, and at least one big log set aside for use in the Diamond Jubilee Orchard.

An English yew sapling was planted under the chestnut tree in 2000 and has grown on well. This evergreen replacement tree is intended to be visible from Main Street and complement other yews in the churchyard, yet will not interfere with graves or give rise to root damage.

Parish Clerk