

## **New Limes lining the High Street**

The avenue of Lime trees in Wootton Bassett's High Street is to be returned to its original number of sixty when three new Common Lime trees are planted.

The trees were originally planted in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and it is thought up to half their number have already been replaced, having died off or through felling. All the trees will now be re-numbered and tagged as part of the Town Council's plans to update their survey map and maintenance operations.

"It will be lovely to see the trees back up to sixty again," says Head Groundsman Ralph White, "they are such a striking part of the High Street and are now an interesting and very visible part of the town's history."

Permission from Wiltshire Council was sought to carry out the work as the High Street is designated a Conservation Area. With its historic Town Hall, built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and the 15<sup>th</sup> Century St Bartholomew & All Saints Church, just two of several notable buildings, Wootton Bassett's High Street has a rich past.

Each December the Lime trees are adorned with multicoloured lights as part of the town's Christmas decorations, and are a warming and welcoming sight. Wootton Bassett Town Councillor, Chris Wannell was responsible for starting this custom and first organised a team of volunteers to decorate the trees approximately 30 years ago, which they did for around 6 years.

"We thoroughly enjoyed bringing a splash of colour and festive spirit to the High Street by decorating the Lime trees," says Councillor Wannell, "and it was something that was really embraced by the town and is still a sight looked forward to every year."

The tradition is now carried on by the Town Council. The new Lime trees should be planted in January.

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