

## **Memorial Plaque for George VI's Coronation – an Update and Proposal**

I have spoken to Rev. S. Partridge about this plaque and potential tree replacement in either the parish church or Row Park Cemetery. After researching the nature of the original tree and Alf's pricing of this at £300 I would like to present the following points and recommendation for discussion.

- The Parish church could not have another tree planted in the graveyard as they are trying to deal with many other mature trees that are causing problems for existing committals and gravestones.
- The original tree was planted on what was then church land that was used for fetes, cricket games etc – thus an open space. This is now in private hands and has changed its nature.
- The plaque has not been seen for several decades due to this change of ownership and it's retrieval for the village is to be commended.
- The replacement of a tree in Row Park, even in the position suggested in the Parish Newsletter (Sept. 2018) also places existing committals at risk of root damage, or in another area might present problems for future committals due to root spread.
- Given that this is not a memorial of a death as such, but a coronation, there is therefore not much impetus to keep the memorial in this area of the village beyond its origins, and given its previous 'open' location I am suggesting that it be placed in the Memorial Green of the village instead for public notice.
- Proposals for the future of this relic are:
  1. Relocation of the plaque to Memorial Garden with with a smaller explanation of its earlier location and reason for relocation
  2. Relocation of the plaque to the Memorials Garden with a replacement tree plus a new sign explaining its relocation
  3. Relocation of the plaque with a replacement tree and a commemoration of the Queen's 65 years on the throne- although at least a year late!
- Any replacement tree would have to be of a different type as this original did not last more that c.80 years and was very large. Perhaps a smaller, slow growing tree appropriate to the location would be a better alternative.

This proposal would keep the plaque in common ownership, make it more visible and prevent damage to committals in both the parish churchyard and Row Park.

I would be happy to draft a reply to the Parish Magazine article in line with any decisions taken by the Council.

Yours, Cindy