

A sad farewell to the beech tree - 2017 January



'Unsafe' tree felled by council

A prominent tree in the churchyard became unsafe towards the end of 2016 after being attacked by a giant fungus that was slowly killing it.

The copper beech was on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. As it was within the churchyard it was the responsibility of Richmond borough council, who are responsible for maintaining the churchyard.

The tree had *Meripilus giganteus*, or giant polypore, a type of white rot. The decay was so vast that the tree could have fallen in windy weather. As it was close to a busy road and pavement the council decided that, for safety reasons, it had to be felled. So in a two day-long operation, the tree was cut down at the beginning of January 2017. It was replaced by a tree that was more resistant to disease.

