

## Our Conker Trees are in Trouble

I don't know any of you have noticed that our Horse Chestnut trees have been taking on an almost Autumnal appearance from mid-summer. This is because they have been invaded by a tiny insect called the 'Leaf miner larvae'.

This started in London about 2002 and has now spread across most of the country. The larvae are only the size of a grain of rice but their numbers wreak havoc with the trees leaf system. It is not thought that they are deadly in themselves, but they have the effect of weakening the tree, making it susceptible to secondary disease e.g. Canker. Indeed, we have already lost one in the churchyard opposite the old post office.

The future does not bode well for these giants of our landscape and they will be sorely missed if they disappear.

Huw Morgan



