Portsdown Post II

A pictorial update from Portsdown



Work continues on the Pandemic Pathway, which is a nicer name than its original. Still plenty of rubbish left to move and arisings left.



The old bus stop stopped a car a few nights ago. By some strange quirk of physics the two manna ash trees next to it also met with a sticky end.





SSE have finished the main repairs and offered to re-landscape the site with topsoil and re-seed. Shrift was short.





The oilseed on the north side of the hill is now in flower. It attracts bees which get hit by the traffic to form sombre drifts of dead pollinators by the road side.



Alarmingly titled litter, along with normal litter is more common as there are around twice as many people on the hill as usual.



The new scrub cutter, very good at nobbling cotoneaster. The battery life is good, I get tired before it does.

Finally I have a tree nursey on top of the fort. Secured against voracious goats





The season moves on, St Mark's fly has been about for a couple of weeks.

Green hairstreaks, plus other seasonal indicators are abundant







A pair of Wheatears were seen in the Top Field.

The first instars of speckled bush crickets are out

Swallows have at last been seen.

This is a Velvet ant, aka the ‘cow killer’. Probably the rarest thing I have had on my thumb for a while. The insect (a type of wasp) has a formidable reputation. The Velvet ant didn’t get me but the fire door did, hence the plaster.

