



# The War Memorial Park Tree Trail

## 9 Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

As its name suggests, the flowers are a little like tulips. The distinctively shaped leaves turn bright gold in autumn. In its native North America its soft white wood is extensively used for house interiors, and by apprentice joiners since it can be easily worked in all directions.

## 10 Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

This is a handsome tree with its charming 'Chinese lantern' - like seed clusters. Its timber is so hard it was invaluable for wind - and watermill cogs, mallets and skittles. Charcoal from hornbeam burned so hot it was used in iron-smelting. In spring, using a stethoscope, rising sap can be heard pulsing in the trunk!

## 11 Larch (*Larix decidua*)

This deciduous conifer offers beautiful spring and autumn colour. The wood was used for fencing, gates and furniture. Its foliage turns golden yellow before falling in autumn.

## 12 Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

Distinctive black buds on grey twigs in winter make ash an easily identifiable tree. Leaves rarely have an even number of leaflets. It is considered lucky to find one! The timber has been harvested since the Iron Age for its elasticity and strength.



## 13 Cherry (*Prunus avium*)

A profusion of blossom in spring precedes the cherry's leaves, which in autumn turn brilliant yellow and red. Its usually generous fruit crop feeds wildlife and humans. Timber from cherry is valued for its rich mahogany-like colour. Its bark peels laterally revealing the shiny red inner bark.

## 14 Oak (*Quercus robur*)

This robust English oak supports a greater variety of wildlife than any other tree in the park. Highly valued for that and its beauty, strength and longevity, its timber has always been used in building, furniture making, barrels and wheel spokes. Two halves of an acorn placed in a pillow keeps a wife faithful.

## 15 Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Sticky buds, flower 'candles', conkers and deeply divided leaves of horse chestnut are unmistakable. In its native Turkey, horses were fed the leaves, containing aescin, as a healer of bruises and strains and an enhancer of glossy coats. The conkers placed indoors repel spiders and moths.



Above; © Photography by Jo Andreae, One World One Camera

## 16 Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*)

Native to the Himalayas, branches of the *C. deodara* 'droop'; as opposed to *C. atlantica* which 'ascend' and *C. libani* which are 'level'. The needles are longer than those of other cedars enabling it to shed Himalayan snow.

## 17 Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

This British native evergreen has a rich history. Churchyard yews often pre-date the church, and individuals are known to be more than 1,000 years old. The foliage and seed in the berry are poisonous. Long bows were made from the whippy sinuous wood. New yew growth contains 'taxol' which is used by research laboratories as a cancer treatment.

## 18 Bay (*Laurus nobilis*)

Most familiar as a culinary aromatic, it was and is, often used as a pot plant at the entrance to identify restaurants and pubs. This is a fine example of the mature bay

## 19 Kentucky Coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)

This tree was introduced from North America where the seeds were ground and widely used as its name suggests, as a substitute for coffee. We believe that this is the only one growing in the borough.

## 20 Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Originally from China and esteemed for its height, the Tree of Heaven can reach 30m. Its leaves can be up to 1m long on a young tree, and its seed bunches as much as 30cm wide!



# Welcome...

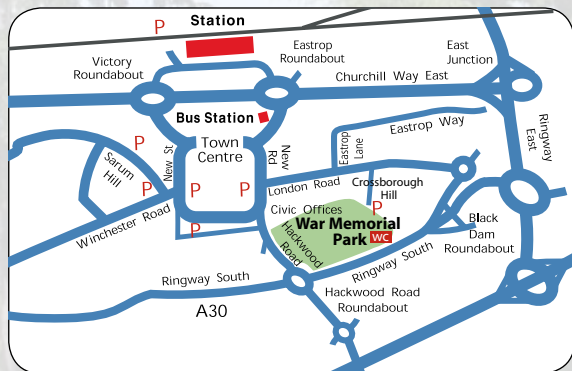
to the War Memorial Park Tree Trail, designed by the Basingstoke tree wardens and park rangers.

Copies of this leaflet are available in large print from the Civic Offices.

The War Memorial Park is reached by a short walk from Festival Place and the bus station.

Follow the map and enjoy the beauty of the variety of trees as you walk around this historic park. The trail starts at Goldings, the Register Office, and provides a clockwise, circular tour through the 18th century parkland. The majority of the route is on tarmac and gravel paths.

The park contains many mature trees and some new planting. Most are native trees that provide good habitats for wildlife. The trees are cared for by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and should you notice any problems, please phone us on the number given below.



For more information about the trees or about parks and open spaces call **01256 844844**.

**Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council**  
Civic Offices London Road Basingstoke Hants RG21 4AH

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## 1 Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica Purpurea*)

This magnificent purple beech is a variety of our common beech, which was widely grown for its straight, close-grained timber. 'Bodgers' turned chair legs in the Chilterns for the furniture making industry; and 'wafers' of beech wood comprised the first book pages. This beech is more than 200 years old.

## 2 London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*)

Fast growing, this enormous tree at 35m high is probably younger than it looks! Ideally suited to city life, the leaves of London Planes are easily washed clean of urban grime by rain, and its bark peels away in patches to reveal an attractive and colourful under-bark.

## 3 Small Leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*)

Small heart-shaped leaves, dark above and paler beneath with rust coloured tufts of down at its leaf-base distinguish this lime tree. Tight-grained and slow to splinter, the wood was used by Grinling Gibbons for his exquisite decorative carvings. Morris dancers also use lime for their sticks!

## 4 Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

The much maligned honeydew exuded by the sycamore is, in fact, an extremely valuable food source for insects and small animals, producing more food than the oak, though the oak supports a greater variety of species.

## 5 Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)

A true native of our countryside, in autumn the field maple foliage displays the brightest yellow of any tree. Its wood was used for musical instruments such as Stradivarius violins.



## 7 Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*)

Introduced 400 years ago from the Mediterranean, the evergreen holm oak was very popular with Victorian gardeners for its gloomy shade, (and may well be again!) 'Holm' is the Old English word for holly, since its leaves, like our common holly are spiny when young.



## 6 Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)

Highly valued as a coppice tree for its whippy rods; hazel provided the wattle framework for medieval house walls. Today it provides a regular crop of wood for hurdles, thatching spars, faggots for river-bank reinforcement, bean poles and has many other uses too. The coppicing industry is alive and well in Hampshire. It is said that a double hazelnut in your pocket will protect against toothache.



## 8 Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*)

Originally from Central Europe, this pine serves as a valuable wind-break and shelter in exposed places. Pine cones open in the sun and close in wet cold weather. Its wood burns fiercely, and provides pitch for sealing wooden boats. Pairs of needles cluster densely on the twigs.