

The Cedar of Lebanon

The Cedar of Lebanon has been held in myth and legend from the earliest of times. Many tales of both good and evil have been acted out among the great boughs of this majestic tree. Many tales allude to her as the keeper of written things, writings of both sacred and ordinary tales. Hence, she is the holder of our stories here in Wigginton Park.

She gathers the tales on her platform-like boughs.

When they are fully formed and the time is right,
she gives them as gifts to

the trees in the park.

They hold them within their hearts and share the stories with anyone who wants to sit and listen.

She is helped in the park by a squirrel called Wigginton. It is his job to help the visitors find the trees and guide them to hear the many tales.

When visitors have finished their tour of the park, Wigginton the squirrel leads them to meet the Cedar of Lebanon, where they are encouraged to sit under her shady boughs and tell their own stories.

Wigginton the Squirrel

We meet Wigginton the squirrel by the holm oak tree. He is gathering his things together, his jacket and his hat.

He is muttering to himself,

"Right, right, it's time to get on,

There are stories to tell, stories to tell,

Right, right, it's time to get on,

There are stories to tell, stories to tell, it's time to get on."

He notices a group of children who are curious about what he is doing.

"I am Wigginton the squirrel and I am your guide to the magic and mystery told through the stories held by the trees in the park."

"Each story was collected by the great story telling tree, the Cedar of Lebanon, who waits for us at the end of the trail. Now we have to find the first tree, the holm oak, follow me."

RIGHT, RIGHT, THERE IS A STORY TO TELL, A STORY TO TELL, COME ALONG QUICK AND FOLLOW ME, AND WE'LL FIND THE STORY AT THE HOLM OAK TREE.



A NATIVE TREE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN THAT WAS INTRODUCED INTO BRITAIN IN THE 1500S. HE BARK IS DARK, ITS FLOWERS TAKE THE FORM OF CATKINS AND THE FRUIT ARE SMALL ACORNS WITH FELTED CUPS It is an evergreen tree. That means it retains its leaves all year round. It comes from the Mediterranean and can grow up to 20m, which is as high as the Angel of the North statue. The bark is cracked and the flowers are long yellow strands called catkins. It produces acorns just like other oak trees. "I like to listen to the holm oak's story about Poppyholly and the Christmas Tree." You can download it from www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail. When the story was finished, Wigginton said: "I am glad Poppyholly got her Christmas tree." "Did you like that story?" he continued, "Yes," the children all shout, "can we have another story?" "I think we can," said Wigginton, "I wonder what the next tree might be? I know, it is the ash tree." ...DON'T FORGET to take a brass rubbing on the page opposite. RIGHT, RIGHT, THERE IS A STORY TO TELL, A STORY TO TELL, COME ALONG QUICK AND FOLLOW ME, AND WE'LL FIND THE STORY AT THE FINE ASH TREE.

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It is a deciduous tree, which means it sheds its leaves in autumn and then grows new leaves in the spring. It can grow up to 35m tall which is half the width of a rugby pitch. Ash trees can live to be 400 years old. They grow long narrow leaves, purple flowers and big bunches of winged fruits.

"Here we have another story that I like to hear, the story of **Tomax dancing, running and jumping**." You can download it from www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail.

When the story was finished Wigginton said "Do you dream like Tomax?"

"We do," everybody shouts.

"Can you do a dance or run really fast? Maybe you like to jump?" asked Wigginton, "Why don't you try now? Come on everyone join in!"

So, everyone danced and ran and jumped, Wigginton laughed and when everyone had finished Wigginton said:

"I bet that was fun! Now I wonder what the next tree might be? I know, it is the horse chestnut." ...DON'T FORGET to take a brass rubbing on the page opposite.

RIGHT, RIGHT, THERE IS A STORY TO TELL, A STORY TO TELL, COME ALONG QUICK AND FOLLOW ME, AND WE'LL FIND THE STORY AT THE HORSE CHESTNUT TREE.

> HE SINGS AS HE MOVES ON TO THE HORSE CHESTNUT TREE AND EVERYONE FOLLOW

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THE WOOD FROM THE TREE HAS A SMOOTH, SOFT, FINE TEXTURE THAT MAKES IT IDEAL FOR CARVING.



Another deciduous tree that originally comes from the Balkans region. It can grow more than 30m high which is as tall 3 houses stacked on top of each other. Horse chestnuts can live to be 300 years old. Its leaves grow in groups of five on each stem, which gives the appearance of a large hand. But the thing most people recognise are the shiny conkers it produces. Did you know the first game of conkers was played in 1848 and children have been playing conkers ever since?

"Now let's settle down and listen to the story of **The Torment of Chester Barky**." You can download it from www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail.

When the story was finished Wigginton said, "I hope you don't throw sticks into the trees, I hope you wait until the conkers fall to the ground before you collect them? That is what I do."

Everyone says they only pick them up off the ground.

"Right, right," said Wigginton, "I wonder what the next tree might be? I know, it is the burnt oak tree."

...DON'T FORGET to take a brass rubbing on the page opposite.

MATURE TREE CAN GROW OVER 30M HIGH AND THE LEAVES UP TO 30CM. THE TREES ARE NOT NATIVE TO BRITAIN

RIGHT, RIGHT, THERE IS A STORY TO TELL,
A STORY TO TELL, COME ALONG QUICK AND FOLLOW THE BEES,
AND WE'LL FIND THE STORY OF THE KING OF THE TREES.

HE SINGS AS HE MOVES ON TO THE OAK TREE,

HE SINGS AS HE MERRY BAND OF STORY LOV

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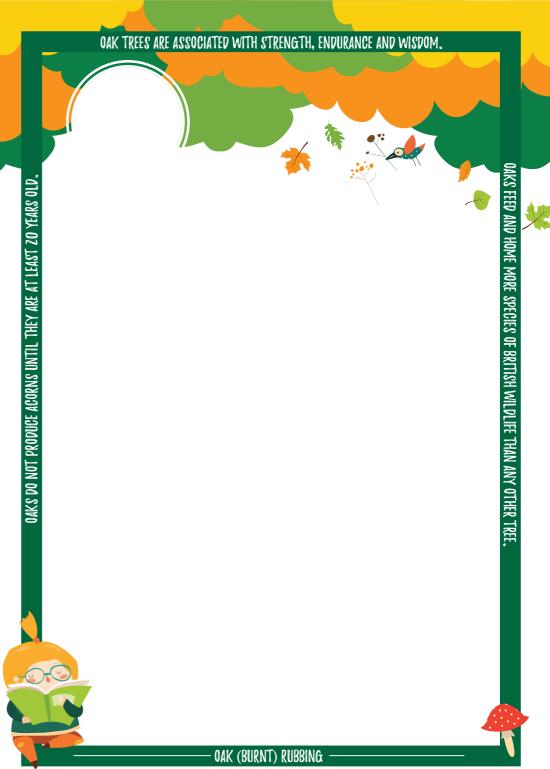
TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL



HORSE CHESTNUT RUBBING

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BEECHES CAN BE GROWN TO MAKE EXCELLENT HEDGES.



It can grow up to 40m, which is the height of eight giraffes stacked on top of each other. Beech trees can live for hundreds of years and some even over a thousand years, which is as old as Tamworth Castle, but I don't think this one is that old. It grows oval shaped leaves that change from light to dark green. The flowers are catkins and the fruits are beech nuts. The beech is often known as the queen of the trees.

"So, now it is time hear the story of **The Graffiti Tree**." You can download it from www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail.

When the story was finished, Wigginton said: "All those young people falling in love and carving their names. We wouldn't carve the bark of trees now because we know it would harm the trees, but it was a romantic story, wasn't it?"

"Can we hear another?" the children ask.

"I wonder?" said Wigginton, "I know! It's the new elm avenue."

...DON'T FORGET to take a brass rubbing on the page opposite.

THE SMALL CATKINS PRODUCED BY BEECH TREES ARE MONOECIOUS, MEANING BOTH MALE AND FEMALI

RIGHT, RIGHT, THERE IS A STORY TO TELL, A STORY TO TELL, COME ALONG QUICK AND SEE THE VIEW, AND WE'LL FIND THE STORY OF THE ELM AVENUE.

HE SINGS AS HE MOVES ON TO
THE ELM TREES AND EVERYONE FOLLOWS
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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL



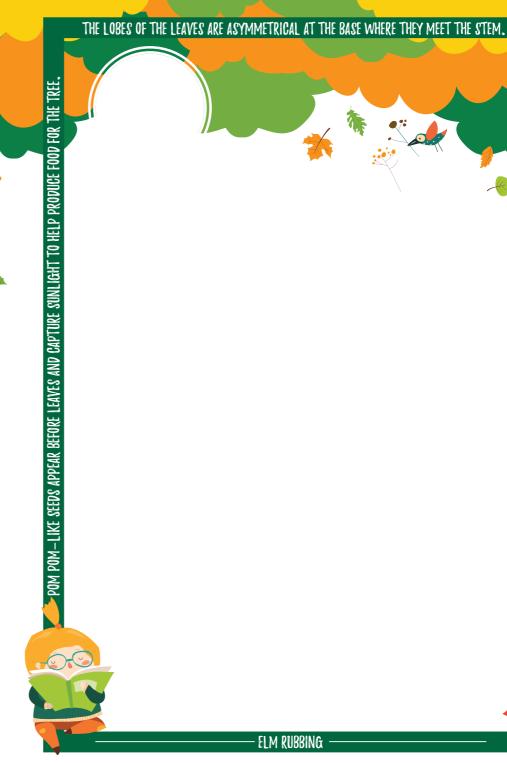
BEECH (GRAFITTI TREE) RUBBING

THE LOBES OF THE LEAVES ARE ASYMMETRICAL AT THE BASE WHERE THEY MEET THE STEM, Leaves Elms can live for up to 100 years and can grow up to 30m tall, which is as tall as three double decker buses are long. A lot of elm trees died because of Dutch elm disease which became established in the UK in the 1960s. But these trees on the elm avenue have been created to resist disease. "These elms hold an old story, so let's listen to Here Be Treasure." You can download it from www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail. When the story was finished, Wigginton said: "I am glad they found the treasure! Can you walk like the children wiggling and wobbling, twisting and turning? Why not give it a try?" Everybody tries wiggling and wobbling, twisting and turning. "Well that was fun," said Wigginton, "but ...DON'T FORGET to take we have to move on. What might the next a brass rubbing on the tree be? I know! It is a tree from way up page opposite. north, it's the Scots pine." RIGHT, RIGHT, THERE IS A STORY TO TELL. A STORY TO TELL, COME ALONG QUICK AND SEE A TREE THAT'S FINE, AND WE'LL FIND THE STORY AT THE GREAT SCOTS PINE.

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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL

THERE ARE 30 TO 40 SPECIES OF ELM THAT ORIGINATE FROM CENTRAL ASIA. THEY APPEARED ON THE PLANET ZO TO 40 MILLION YEARS AGO



THERE ARE 30 TO 40 SPECIES OF ELM THAT ORIGINATE FROM CENTRAL ASIA. THEY APPEARED ON THE PLANET 20 TO 40 MILLION YEARS AGO

THE SCOTS PINE IS AN EVERGREEN CONIFER THAT IS ONE OF ONLY THREE CONIFERS NATIVE TO BRITAIN.



It is an evergreen, which has pine needles instead of leaves. In 2014 it was unveiled as Scotland's national tree. Scots pine can grow up to 35m high which is as long as 7 crocodiles in a line! The wood is often used to make furniture and the pine sap is very sticky and strongly scented.

"I like to smell the fresh leaves of the Scots pine, it reminds me of its story," said Wigginton.

"So, let's settle and hear the Scots pine's story, **The Guardian and Woody Barker**." You can download it from www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail.

When the story was finished, Wigginton said: "It is sad how we treat the earth, but you all know better and you too can become quardians."

Everyone agrees.

...DON'T FORGET to take a brass rubbing on the page opposite. HISTORICALLY, THE SCOTS PINE HAD MANY INDUSTRIAL USES, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF TAR AND TURPENTINI

"Let's move on. I wonder what the next tree might be? It's the last one that holds a story, so let's go and find the giant sequoia."

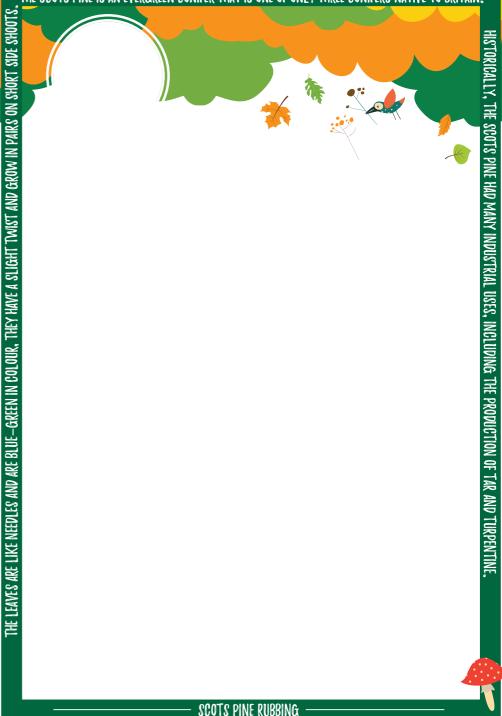
RIGHT, RIGHT, THERE IS A STORY TO TELL, A STORY TO TELL, COME ALONG QUICK FOLLOW ME, AND WE'LL FIND THE STORY AT THE GIANT SEQUOIA TREE.

HE SINGS AS HE MOVES ON. EVERYONE FOLLOWS. LOOKING UP FOR THE GIANT

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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL

THE SCOTS PINE IS AN EVERGREEN CONIFER THAT IS ONE OF ONLY THREE CONIFERS NATIVE TO BRITAIN.



This is the givet sequoin tree

Talking Leaves TREE TRAIL

Giant sequoias can live for 3,500 years, making giant sequoias the oldest living things on the planet. The tallest giant sequoia still alive today is currently 100m in height, which is as tall as Big Ben's Tower. They originally come from the Sierra Nevada in California and their leaves smell of aniseed.

"So, let's rest one last time and hear the giant sequoia story, **The Day the Storm Came.**" You can download it from www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail.

When the story was finished, Wigginton said: "I am glad that everyone was able to help out and stop the storm."

The children agreed it was frightening, but they were happy that everyone was able to help.

"Right, we have heard every story, so now let's go and find the great collector of tales. Let's meet the Cedar of Lebanon.

...DON'T FORGET to take a brass rubbing on the page opposite.

RIGHT, RIGHT, TO THE KING OF TALES
THE KING OF THE TALES, COME ALONG QUICK AND MEET THE
KING OF TALES,

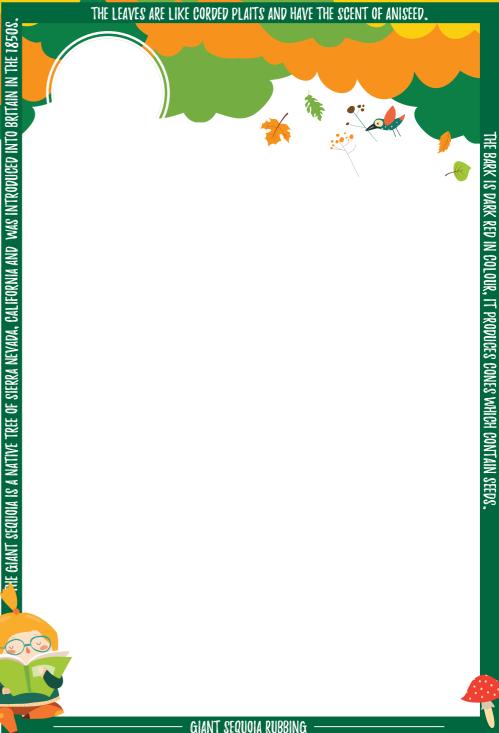
AND TELL HIM YOUR STORY AND SEE WHERE IT SAILS.

HE SINGS AS HE MOVES ON TO THE CEDAR OF LEBANON

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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL

THE BARK IS DARK RED IN COLOUR, IT PRODUCES CONES WHICH CONTAIN SEEDS



special tree."

Talking Leaves TREE TRAIL

When Wigginton arrives at the cedar tree, he sits and invites everyone to sit down with him.

"The Cedar of Lebanon," says Wigginton, "is a majestic evergreen conifer that can grow up to 40m in height, the same height as the Christ the Redeemer monument in Rio de Janeiro. It is native to Lebanon and its sweetly scented sap is used as an insect repellent. When viewed from afar, its many branches create the illusion of platforms."

"It is on those platforms that the stories are stored, until the cedar can find the right tree to hold them," *Wigginton continued*, "but where does she get the stories? Well let me tell you...she gets them from you!"

"So why don't you tell a story? If the Cedar of Lebanon likes it, she may store it on a platform, then one day you might return and find your story has been given to a ...DON'T FORGET to take

...DON'T FORGET to take a brass rubbing on the page opposite.

Wigginton leaves the children sitting under the tree, telling stories. He wonders if you have a story to tell.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY? WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR IT. LET'S ALL SIT AND LISTEN.



MANY WERE PLANTED IN THE 1700S IN STATELY HOMES AND MANSIONS TO DEMONSTRATE WEALTH







PLANTED IN THE 1700S IN STATELY HOMES AND MANSIONS TO DEMONSTRATE WEALTH

9.0

CEDAR OF LEBANON RUBBING