



www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail

TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL



The Cedar of Lebanon STORYTELLING TREE

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.

TAKE A SHORT WALK TOWARDS THE
HOLM OAK TREE AND FOLLOW WIGGINTON...

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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL

A NATIVE TREE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN THAT WAS INTRODUCED INTO BRITAIN IN THE 1500S.

THE LEAVES ARE EVERGREEN UNLIKE OTHER OAKS AND RESEMBLE HOLLY LEAVES.

THE BARK IS DARK, ITS FLOWERS TAKE THE FORM OF CATKINS AND THE FRUIT ARE SMALL ACORNS WITH FELTED CUPS.



This is the
holm oak tree

Talking
Leaves
TREE TRAIL

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.

HE SINGS AS HE MOVES ON TO
THE ASH TREE AND EVERYONE FOLLOWS...

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THE BARK IS DARK, ITS FLOWERS TAKE THE FORM OF CATKINS AND THE FRUIT ARE SMALL ACORNS WITH FELTED CUPS.



HOLM OAK RUBBING



LARGE BLACK BUDS MAKE IT EASY TO IDENTIFY ASH IN WINTER.

THE BARK IS BLONDE AND EXCELLENT FOR CARVING.



This is the ash tree

Talking Leaves
TREE TRAIL

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.

THE SEEDS ARE CALLED KEYS AND GROW IN BUNCHES, LIKE BANANAS.

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 FOLLOWS...

www.tamworth.gov.uk/treetrail



TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL

LARGE BLACK BUDS MAKE IT EASY TO IDENTIFY ASH IN WINTER.

THE BARK IS BLONDE AND EXCELLENT FOR CARVING.



THE SEEDS ARE CALLED KEYS AND GROW IN BUNCHES, LIKE BANANAS.



ASH RUBBING



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

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

HORSE CHESTNUT TREES GROW CANDLE-LIKE FLOWERS, PRODUCE CONKER SEEDS AND HAVE BIG STICKY BUDS.

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

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This is the horse chestnut tree

Talking Leaves TREE TRAIL

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.

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,
FOLLOWED BY THE MERRY BAND OF STORY LOVERS.

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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL

HORSE CHESTNUT RUBBING



OAK TREES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH STRENGTH, ENDURANCE AND WISDOM.

OAK TREES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH STRENGTH, ENDURANCE AND WISDOM.

OAKS DO NOT PRODUCE ACORNS UNTIL THEY ARE AT LEAST 20 YEARS OLD.

OAKS FEED AND HOME MORE SPECIES OF BRITISH WILDLIFE THAN ANY OTHER TREE.

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This is the oak tree



It is the best known native tree in Britain. Oaks can grow to around 30m which is the size of a blue whale and can live up to 600 or even 1,000 years. It grows leaves with lobes around the edges and flowers are long yellow hanging catkins. The fruits are acorns, which are eaten by many woodland creatures, so you have to gather them quickly before they are all gone if you want to plant a new oak tree.

"I think it is time to hear the story of **Bok the Oakman**." You can download it from www.tamworth.gov.uk/treerail.

When the story was finished, Wigginton said: "So that is how this oak tree was burnt, but he was brave."

"Trees are very precious and we should protect them." Wigginton said. "That means we have to be careful and not light fires."

Everyone nods their heads and talks about how dangerous fire can be.

"I wonder what the next tree might be?" said one of the children.

"It is the graffiti tree," said Wigginton, "which is a beech tree. It is down here."

...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 OF THE GRAFFITI BEECH TREE.

HE SINGS AS HE MOVES ON TO THE BEECH TREE
AND EVERYONE FOLLOWS...



www.tamworth.gov.uk/treerail

TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL



OAK (BURNT) RUBBING



BEECHES CAN BE GROWN TO MAKE EXCELLENT HEDGES.

YOUNG BEECH TREES DO NOT DROP ALL THEIR LEAVES IN WINTER.



This is the beech tree

Talking Leaves
TREE TRAIL

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/treerail.

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.

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...

www.tamworth.gov.uk/treerail

TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL

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

BEECHES CAN BE GROWN TO MAKE EXCELLENT HEDGES.

YOUNG BEECH TREES DO NOT DROP ALL THEIR LEAVES IN WINTER.



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



BEECH (GRAFFITI TREE) RUBBING



POM POM - LIKE SEEDS APPEAR BEFORE LEAVES AND CAPTURE SUNLIGHT TO HELP PRODUCE FOOD FOR THE TREE.

THE LOBES OF THE LEAVES ARE ASYMMETRICAL AT THE BASE WHERE THEY MEET THE STEM.

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



This is the elm tree

Talking Leaves TREE TRAIL

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 we have to move on. What might the next tree be? I know! It is a tree from way up north, it's the Scots pine."

...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 SEE A TREE
THAT'S FINE,
AND WE'LL FIND THE STORY AT THE GREAT SCOTS PINE.

HE SINGS AS HE MOVES ON TO SCOTS PINE
AND EVERYONE MARCHES ON BEHIND HIM...

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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL



THE LOBES OF THE LEAVES ARE ASYMMETRICAL AT THE BASE WHERE THEY MEET THE STEM.

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

POM POM - LIKE SEEDS APPEAR BEFORE LEAVES AND CAPTURE SUNLIGHT TO HELP PRODUCE FOOD FOR THE TREE.



ELM RUBBING



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

THE LEAVES ARE LIKE NEEDLES AND ARE BLUE-GREEN IN COLOUR, THEY HAVE A SLIGHT TWIST AND GROW IN PAIRS ON SHORT SIDE SHOOTS.



This is the Scots pine tree

Talking Leaves TREE TRAIL

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 guardians."

Everyone agrees.

"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."

...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 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 TREE...

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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL



HISTORICALLY, THE SCOTS PINE HAD MANY INDUSTRIAL USES, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF TAR AND TURPENTINE.

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

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SCOTS PINE RUBBING



THE GIANT SEQUOIA IS A NATIVE TREE OF SIERRA NEVADA, CALIFORNIA AND WAS INTRODUCED INTO BRITAIN IN THE 1850S.

THE LEAVES ARE LIKE CORDED PLAITS AND HAVE THE SCENT OF ANISEED.



This is the giant sequoia 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.

THE LEAVES ARE LIKE CORDED PLAITS AND HAVE THE SCENT OF ANISEED.

THE GIANT SEQUOIA IS A NATIVE TREE OF SIERRA NEVADA, CALIFORNIA AND WAS INTRODUCED INTO BRITAIN IN THE 1850S.



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



GIANT SEQUOIA RUBBING



IT IS THOUGHT TO REPRESENT ETERNAL LIFE AND INCORRUPTIBILITY.

IT IS THOUGHT TO REPRESENT ETERNAL LIFE AND INCORRUPTIBILITY.

THE MALE AND FEMALE FLOWERS ARE IN SEPARATE CONES.

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

THE MALE AND FEMALE FLOWERS ARE IN SEPARATE CONES.

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



This is the Cedar of Lebanon

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 special tree."

...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.

WHY NOT SIT UNDER THE CEDAR TREE AND TELL YOUR STORY?...

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TALKING LEAVES TREE TRAIL

CEDAR OF LEBANON RUBBING

