

## WENVOE TREE TRAIL

Wenvoe is blessed with a wide variety of different trees so in this short Tree Trail we hope to introduce you to over 30 of these. We tend to distinguish between 'native' trees - those that grow wild in the countryside like Oak and Birch and specimen trees that have been brought from abroad or developed for parks and gardens. On this trail you will see examples of both. All the trees are clearly visible from the pavements or public areas. Please respect people's privacy.

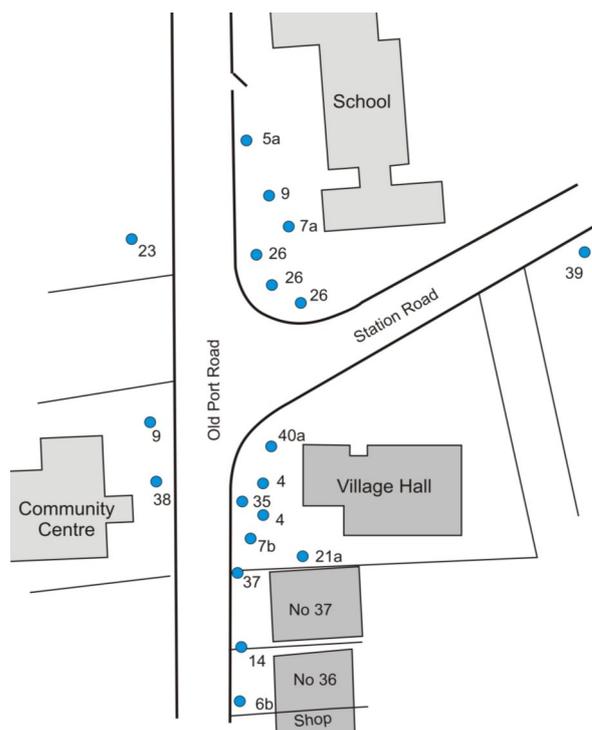


*Purple Beech in front of the school*

Start the trail from the entrance to the school in the middle of the village on Old Port Road. Look around you. In the school grounds are some mature trees. Grange Park on the other side of the road has some very large trees – we shall finish the walk in the park.

Let's start with the school grounds. The large tree just to the right of the school entrance gate is a Purple Beech (5a) not, as many people say, a Copper Beech. Next as you head along the pavement to the right is an evergreen - a Lawson's Cypress (9) - you can tell it from the notorious Leylandii because Lawson's has leaders (the tips of the shoots) that droop. There is another one at the top of the steps by the Community Centre. Then we have three Oaks (26), probably English or Pedunculate Oaks which have short stalks on the leaves and long stalks on the acorns compared with the Sessile Oak (26b) which has exactly the opposite.

Next to the oaks (26) and not that obvious except in Spring when the long tails of blossom hang down is a Bird Cherry (7a). This grows in the wild, particularly in hilly areas such as the lower Brecon Beacons. The fruit, which look like black cherries, are bitter to us



but birds love them. Now head to your left down Station Road and after just 100 yards, you will see a tree on your right overhanging the pavement with pale bark. For much of the year you will see round green fruit on it - this is a Walnut (39).



*Village Hall with Whitebeam in foreground*

Head back up Station Road to the junction and on your left a large white building, the Village Hall. Just over the cast-iron arch is a Common Whitebeam (40a), *Sorbus aria*, but this is a frequently planted clone known as *Lutescens*. Go through the arch to the right of the building where you will find a nice little mix of trees. On your right are two rotund Bay Trees (4) with glossy green leaves - the tree from which you get your Bay leaves for cooking. Between them is a tree looking like a Christmas tree, a Norway Spruce (35), although these days there are also many other varieties of conifer sold at Christmas.

At the back is a larger tree and this is the Small-leaved Lime (21a), once called the Pry Tree and about 5,000 years ago this was the dominant tree in the Wildwood. 3 ways to help distinguish it from Common Lime (21) are:

- It has smaller leaves, typically 8 x 8 cms – the Common Lime is around 10 x 10 cms
- The flowers point in all directions – on the Common Lime they hang down
- The vein-joints underneath the leaves have rufous (reddish) tufts of fine hairs – they are buff on the Common Lime.

Also if the tree has lots of suckers it is likely to be the Common Lime

To the right of this tree and growing just beyond the grounds is a Sycamore (37) with 5 points to the leaves. These are common in Wenvoe and the surrounding countryside but can be confused with another frequently planted tree, the Norway Maple (24a). However if you break off a leaf of this maple a milky sap should be evident – there is no sap with the Sycamore. Note that the Field Maple (24), very common in our countryside but with smaller leaves, also exudes sap. The hedge below the Sycamore (37) is largely composed of Sycamore so you can try out the sap test on these.

Just to the right of the lime (21a) is a small Japanese Flowering Cherry (7b). The Latin name includes the word 'serrulata' which means serrated like a saw – look closely at the edge of the leaf to check this. Another characteristic of cherries is that there are two small glands on the leaf-stalk. These are called nectaries. They tend to glisten when the tree is in flower and attract ants which help to combat leaf-eating insects.



*Flowering Cherry (7b) with glands on stem*

Leave the grounds of the Village Hall via the arch and follow the pavement to the left. Across the road on your right and just outside the Community Centre is a Tulip Tree (38) planted to mark the Millennium. These generally take about 25 years to flower so if we assume it was about 5 years old when planted we may see it in bloom around 2020. Just to its right is another Lawson's Cypress (9).



*Tulip Tree leaf (38)*

Keep heading along the pavement. On your left just before the Village Shop is a Silver Birch (6b). The bark is silvery white and with characteristic diamond and arrow shapes. As you pass the pub there are some fine mature trees ahead of you. On the right is a Purple Beech (5a) by the War Memorial and further on to the left a Horse Chestnut (17) and a Sycamore (37). The Green also has a good mix of trees. At the front and overhanging the road is a Flowering Cherry (7b) grafted onto a Wild Cherry (7c) – you can see the enlarged trunk at the base. Just to the right of the telephone box is a small Ginkgo (12) or Maidenhair Tree – one of the most ancient of trees dating back to Mesozoic times (from 252 to 66 million years ago - the Age of Reptiles). This is a male. Females are seldom planted because the fruit smell pretty awful but you can see one in Roath Park not far from the Glasshouse.

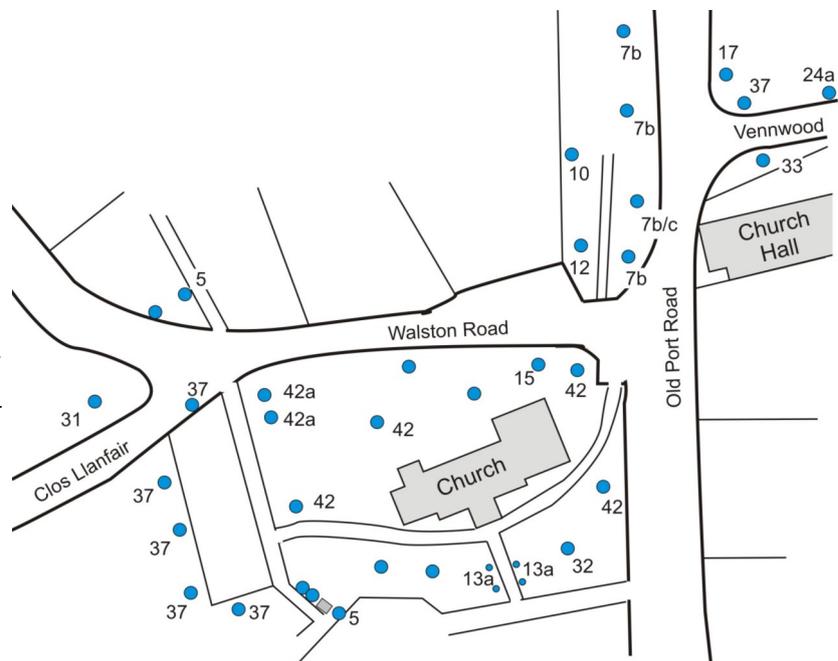
Stop by the Church Hall building. To the left of the bench is a Rowan – an Asiatic Rowan (33) which has red shoots whereas the European Rowans (33a) have grey ones. Opposite here and just inside the garden of Ty Pica house is a Purple Norway Maple (24a), probably a variety known as Crimson King.



*Ginkgo leaves (12)*

Now cross the main road and head into the churchyard. Immediately on your left with a large spreading trunk is a Yew , one of Wales's ancient yews (42). It was considered old in the 1700s.

Follow the path and on your left beyond the cross is a Poplar , the Balm of Gilead Poplar (32) - very appropriate as there are 3 references in the Bible to Balm of Gilead and a great African-American spiritual is 'There is a balm in Gilead'. Then either side of the path branching to the left are 4 Hawthorns. These are Midland Hawthorns (13a) which you can tell from the Common Hawthorn (13) as there are two pips in the fruit or 'haw' (just one in Common Hawthorn) and the leaves are less deeply lobed (the cut is up to half way to the centre – in Common hawthorn it is at least halfway) .



*Balm of Gilead Poplar(32)*



*Common Hawthorn (13) on left, Midland Hawthorn (13a) on right*



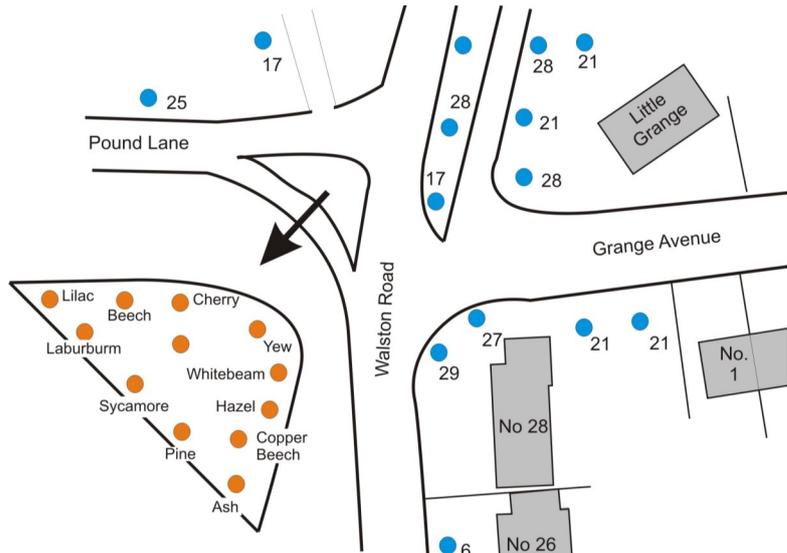


Left - Loquat tree (22).



Right - Loquat fruit

Retrace your steps up Wenvoe Close and turn right, continuing up Walston Road until you reach a junction of roads with Pound Lane on your left. A small triangle of land between the access to Pound Lane has a surprising mix of trees. You can test your skills by seeing what you can find which should include Sycamore (37), Hazel (14) (more of a bush than a tree), Yew (42), Whitebeam (40), Cherry (7) and Purple Beech (5a). At the far end is a Laburnum (18) with sets of 3 leaves surrounded by some low-growing Lilac. We have not mentioned Ash (3) so far but there is one here. Look for black buds in winter and divided leaves with lots of leaflets.



Laburnum (18).



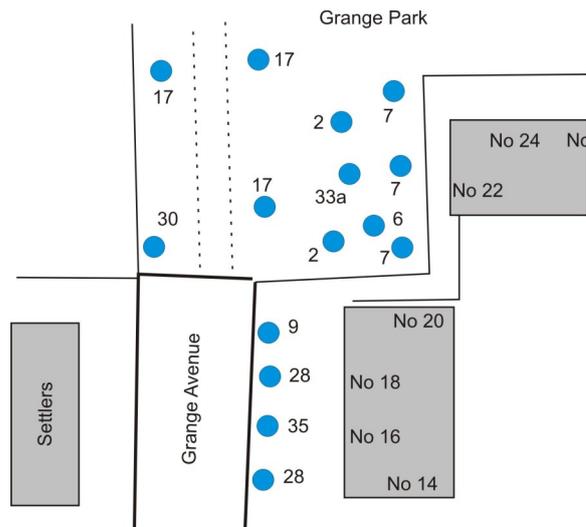
Triangle of land with several trees. .



Ash bud (3)

Now head towards the park down Grange Avenue. Immediately on your right and hanging over the hedge is a short tree with some multi-coloured leaves in early Autumn (see photo). This is *Parrotia persica* (27), more commonly known as Persian Ironwood. You can see a very good example in Clyne Gardens, Swansea. Next note the very large trees immediately on your right in the same garden which are Common Limes. At the bottom of the avenue on your right are 4 conifers. The first and third are Austrian Pines (28), the second a Norway Spruce (35) and the fourth a Lawsons Cypress (9).

Just to the left on the edge of the park is a London Plane (30) with glossy leaves and 'pom-poms' hanging down prominently during the winter months. Look at the trunk which is quite 'knobbly'. Once you are in the park and just on the right is a small clump of trees consisting of a Rowan (33a) or Mountain Ash (with red berries), Silver Birch (6b), 3 Cherries (7) and 2 Apples (2). Grange Park itself once consisted mainly of Horse Chestnuts (17) from which you get your conkers and Austrian Pines (28) (the needles are in pairs). The Horse Chestnuts have wonderful flowering candelabra and bumblebees love the nectar. New plantings in recent years include the Sweet Chestnut (36) and the first of these are starting to produce the edible fruit which you may have eaten as chestnuts. You should be able to find 5 of these. At the wide end of the park is a newly-planted Purple Beech (5a). To its right you will see another Oak (26) and to its right on the edge of the garden of the row of cottages is a Eucalyptus (11) with waxy leaves. At the narrow end of the park the young Chestnut is an Indian Horse Chestnut (17b) with smooth conkers.



Mountain Ash or Rowan

*This trail has been produced by the Wenvoe Wildlife Group. We have not described all the trees you passed and there are other interesting ones elsewhere in the village which we may include in a second tree trail in the future.*

*For more information or to let us have any feedback visit [www.wenvoewildlifegroup.co.uk](http://www.wenvoewildlifegroup.co.uk)*

*Our thanks to Tony Titchen, dendrologist, for help in identifying the trees.*

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2	Apple	15	Holly	28a	Pine Monterey
3	Ash	16	Hornbeam	29	Pittosporum
4	Bay	17	Horse-chestnut	30	Plane London
5	Beech	17a	Horse-chestnut Red	31	Plum Purple-leaved
5a	Beech Copper / Purple	17b	Horse-chestnut Indian	32	Poplar Balm of Gilead
6	Birch	18	Laburnum	33	Rowan Asiatic
6a	Birch Himalayan	19	Laurel Portugal	33a	Rowan European
6b	Birch Silver	20	Lilac	34	Spindle
7	Cherry	21	Lime Common	35	Spruce Norway
7a	Cherry Bird	21a	Lime Small-leaved	36	Sweet Chestnut
7b	Cherry Japanese Flowering	21b	Lime Weeping Silver	37	Sycamore
7c	Cherry Wild	22	Loquat	38	Tulip Tree
8	Clerodendom	23	Magnolia	39	Walnut
9	Cypress Lawson	24	Maple Field	40	Whitebeam
9a	Cypress Lelandii	24a	Maple Norway	40a	Whitebeam Common
10	Elm	25	Mulberry	40b	Whitebeam Lutescens
10a	Elm Wych	26	Oak English / Pedunculate	41	Willow
11	Eucalyptus	26a	Oak Pedunculate	42	Yew
12	Gingko	26b	Oak Sessile	42a	Yew Irish
13	Hawthorn Common	27	Parrotia		
13a	Hawthorn Midland				

### Name Index

Alder	1	Hazel	14	Parrotia	27
Apple	2	Himalayan Birch	6a	Pedunculate Oak	26a
Ash	3	Holly	15	Persian ironwood	27
Ash Mountain	33a	Hornbeam	16	Pine Austrian	28
Asiatic Rowan	33	Horse-chestnut	17	Pine Monterey	28a
Bay	4	Horse-chestnut Red	17a	Pittosporum	29
Beech	5	Horse-chestnut Indian	17b	Plane London	30
Beech Copper / Purple	5a	Indian Horse-chestnut	17b	Plum Purple-leaved	31
Birch	6	Irish Yew	42a	Poplar Balm of Gilead	32
Birch Himalayan	6a	Japanese Flowering Cherry	7b	Purple Beech	5a
Birch Silver	6b	Laburnum	18	Purple-leaved Plum	31
Bird Cherry	7a	Laurel Portugal	19	Red Horse-chestnut	17a
Cherry	7	Lawson Cypress	9	Rowan Asiatic	33
Cherry	7	Lelandii Cypress	9a	Rowan European	33a
Cherry Bird	7a	Lilac	20	Sessile Oak	26b
Cherry Japanese Flowering	7b	Lime Common	21	Silver Birch	6b
Cherry Wild	7c	Lime Small-leaved	21a	Small-leaved Lime	21a
Clerodendom	8	Lime Weeping Silver	21b	Spindle	34
Common Hawthorn	13	Loquat	22	Spruce Norway	35
Common Whitebeam	40a	Lutescens Whitebeam	40b	Sweet Chestnut	36
Copper Beech	5a	Magnolia	23	Sycamore	37
Cypress Lawson	9	Maidenhair Tree	12	Tulip Tree	38
Cypress Lelandii	9a	Maple Field	24	Walnut	39
Elm	10	Maple Norway	24a	Weeping Silver Lime	21b
Elm Wych	10a	Midland Hawthorn	13a	Whitebeam	40
English Oak	26	Monterey Pine	28a	Whitebeam Common	40a
Eucalyptus	11	Mulberry	25	Whitebeam Lutescens	40b
European Rowan	33a	Norway Maple	24a	Wild Cherry	7c
Field Maple	24	Norway Spruce	35	Willow	41
Gingko	12	Oak English	26	Wych Elm	10a
Hawthorn Common	13	Oak Pedunculate	26a	Yew	42
Hawthorn Midland	13a	Oak Sessile	26b	Yew Irish	42a