

Keys Hill Wood

Keys Hill Wood is an historic and important part of our village. The village Neighbourhood Plan refers to the wood designated as Local Green Space for special protection. Over the years it has become neglected and overgrown, accessible only to a few intrepid dog walkers.

In 2019 the Parish Council initiated a project, led by Councillor Ian Joynson, to clear and regenerate the wood. The team included councillors, volunteers and the Broadland Tree Warden Network (BTWN) whose advice and expertise was crucial to the project. The planting programme was managed by the BTWN and trees were supplied by the Network through a tree planting grant from Broadland District Council. The Parish Council wanted to include younger volunteers and approached Broadland High School. As a result, a small group of students from Years 7 and 9 with teachers joined the team in November to tidy the site, create habitats for wildlife and prepare it for planting.

In January 2020, the students returned to help volunteers and councillors to plant 99 new trees of 16 different species, including 8 species which are new to the wood. Since then volunteers from the BTWN have continued to help maintain the wood and have created some seats from the larger logs. Woodland management is a continuous process and the Parish Council is grateful for all assistance in keeping Keys Hill Wood an accessible space. We particularly appreciate the hard work of Angus Turvill, our village representative on the BTWN, throughout this community project.

Acknowledgements:

The list of trees in the wood and information was compiled by Angus Turvill, Broadland Tree Warden Network representative for Wroxham, February 2020.

With thanks to Jo Parmenter and John Fleetwood of the Broadland Tree Warden Network.

Sources of information and images taken include; The Woodland Trust, Wikipedia, 'Collins Nature Guides:Trees of Britain & Europe by Gregor Aas & Andreas Riedmiller', 'The Reader's Digest Field Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of Great Britain', 'Trees and How to Grow Them' by Margaret Lipscombe & Jon Stokes, and 'Great British Trees' by Jon Stokes, The Tree Council.

Additional information can be found on the Woodland Trust website: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

The species planted in January 2020 are described below:

Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*) A *deciduous* tree that grows about 6 - 9m tall. 5 were planted; these are a new species to our wood. It is found in Europe and much of Asia. It has a bitter fruit, sometimes used to flavour brandies and wines. In the past it has been used to make cough medicine. The berries are eaten by blackbirds, song thrushes, badgers, dormice. The flowers smell like almonds and the wood has been used to make small boxes and tool handles.



Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) A *deciduous* tree that grows about 9m tall. 4 were planted; these are a new species to our wood. It is found in most of Europe and W. Asia. It is the ancestor of all cultivated apples. 'Crab' is related to the word 'scrub'. The berries are eaten by birds, including blackbirds, thrushes and crows, as well as mammals, such as mice, voles, foxes and badgers.



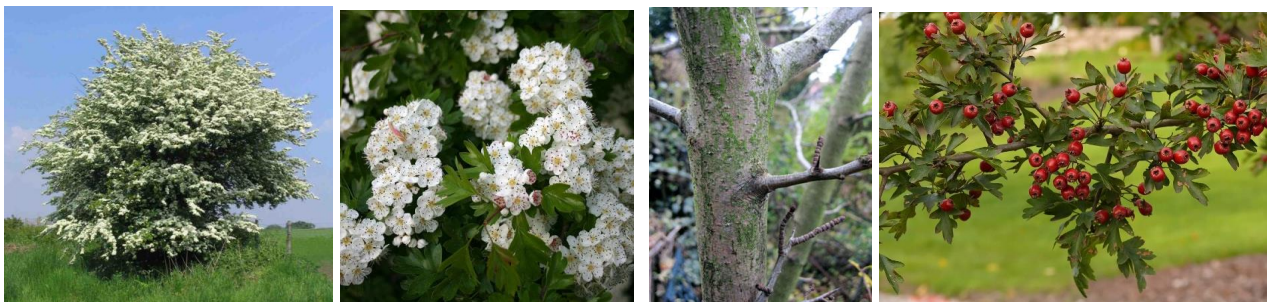
Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) A broad-crowned *deciduous* shrub or small tree that grows about 9m tall. 4 were planted; some small trees are already in the wood. It is found in most of Europe, W. Siberia, Caucasus and Turkey. It is sometimes used in drinks, jams and (in the past) dyes. The wood has been used for small toys, combs and wooden spoons. The stems can be hollowed out to make whistles and pea shooters. The berries are eaten by birds whilst dormice and voles eat the berries and flowers.



Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) A deciduous tree that grows about 5m. 5 were planted; these are a new species to the wood. **Warning...**The leaves, bark and berries are all toxic to humans. The berries are eaten by bullfinches and mistle thrushes. Often found in wet lowland areas in Europe.



Hawthorn (Common) (*Crataegus monogyna*). A deciduous tree that grows about 14m. 16 were planted; there are some small bushes already in the wood. It is found in Europe, N. Africa, Turkey and Causcasus. It is often used in hedging and a good habitat for wildlife. It is known to support 300 species of insect. The berries can be used to make jelly. They are also a good source of winter food for birds, including thrushes, redwings and fieldfares.



Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) A deciduous tree that can reach a height of 12m and as broad as 9m. 12 were planted; there are some small trees already in the wood. It is found in Europe, Turkey, Causcasus. The Hazel is a particularly common native species of the British Isles. Hazel rods were once used in the construction of Welsh coracles and in wattle and daub building. It is often coppiced. Until the 1900s it was grown in the UK for large scale nut production. The hazelnuts are eaten by woodpeckers, nuthatches, tits, pigeons and jays.



Holly (Common) (*Ilex aquifolium*) An *evergreen* tree that grows up to 15m. 6 were planted; there are various bushes and trees already in the wood. It is found in W., C. and S. Europe, N. Africa, W. Asia and China. It is native to the British Isles and often planted. It can live up to 300 years. It was supposed to be unlucky to cut down a holly tree. The tree was (and still is, by some) seen as a fertility symbol and a charm to ward off witches, goblins and the Devil. Only female trees bear the berries. It is often used as hedging and the fallen leaves make good nesting material for hedgehogs and the small woodland animals.



Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) A *deciduous* tree that grows up to 24m. 5 were planted; these are a new species in the wood. It is found in Europe, Turkey, Caucasus and N. Iran. In the British Isles it is native to S.E. England where it is often planted as hedge or roadside tree. The first Hampton Court maze is thought to have been Hornbeam. The hard wood is used for making butchers' chopping blocks, mallets, balls and skittles. In Ancient Rome the wood was used of the spokes and cogwheels for chariots. Finches, tits and small mammals all eat the seeds.



Oak (Common) (*Quercus robur*) A *deciduous* tree that grows between 20-40m high. 4 were planted; there are 8 already in the wood. It is found throughout the British Isles and also in Europe and Causcasus. The oldest Oak in the British Isles is thought to be the Bowthorpe Oak in Lincolnshire, it is over 1,000 years old. It has a girth (circumference) of 12.3m. Oak trees are regarded as sacred by the Druids. Traditionally, it was used in construction and shipbuilding. It was particularly used for the building of our early naval vessels, so much so that by the reign of Elizabeth I they had to be protected as so many had been felled. The Oak supports more insect species than other trees in the British Isles.



Rowan (mountain ash) (*Sorbus aucuparia*) A *deciduous* tree that grows about 20m. 6 were planted; these are a new species in the wood. It is found in Europe, W. Siberia and Turkey. Although commonly found at all levels, the Rowan grows higher up mountains in the British Isles than most other trees. In former times it was often planted outside houses and churches to ward off witches. The berries can be used to make jelly as an accompaniment to Game fare. The wood was once widely used to make small objects, tool handles and sometimes long-bows (instead of Yew).



Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) A *deciduous* tree that grows normally about 15m in the British Isles, but can grow to 30m. 8 were planted; there are some saplings in the wood already. It can be found in Europe, Siberia, Turkey, Caucasus and N. Iran. In the British Isles it is more common towards the South. It was considered a sacred tree by the Celtic and Germanic tribes and a symbol of purification and renewal. It is home to up to 300 insect species. It is popular with woodpeckers and other hole-nesting birds. The heavy wood is used of furniture. It was once used for the bobbins, spool and reels in the Lancashire cotton industry.



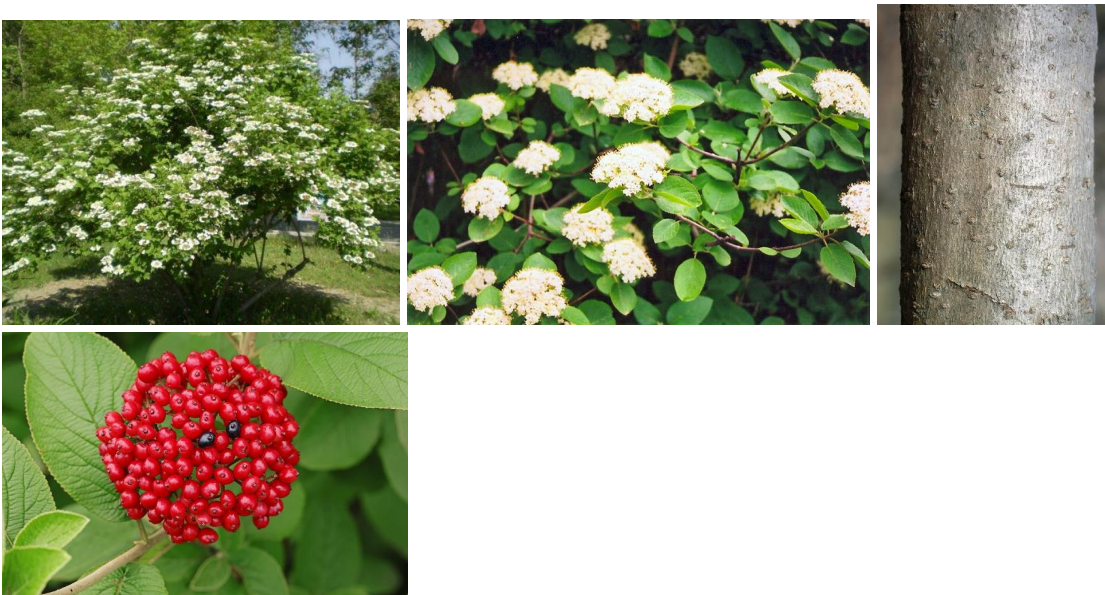
Spindle (*Euonymus europaea*) A *deciduous* tree that grows about 6 - 9m. 4 were planted; these are a new species in the wood. It is found throughout Europe. The dense hard wood was traditionally used for making spindles, pegs and skewers. Today charcoal produced from this tree is popularly used by artists.



Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) A *deciduous* tree that grows up to 35m. 6 were planted; there is 1 already in the wood. It is found in S. Europe, Turkey and N. Africa. It was introduced to the British Isles by the Romans. The Tortworth Chestnut Tree in Gloucestershire is said to have been planted in 800AD. It has a girth of 12m. It has edible nuts. Sweet Chestnut wood is similar to Oak wood and is similarly used for panelling and beams.



Wayfaring Tree (*Viburnum lantana*) A *deciduous* tree that grows about 6m. 6 were planted; these are a new species in the wood. It is found in throughout Central and S. Europe. It was called the 'Wayfarer's tree' by 16th Century botanist John Gerard because he found so many along the lanes in southern England. The young twigs are very flexible and were used instead of string to bind faggots and hay bales. It was also used to make switches for driving livestock. The hard wood was once used to make mouthpieces for pipes, and the black berries made into ink. The straight stems were once used to make arrows.



Wild service (*Sorbus torminalis*) A deciduous tree that grows about 20m. 4 were planted; These are a new species in the wood. It is found in S. W. and C. Europe, W. Asia, N. Africa. It is now one of the rarest of Britain's native trees. Traditionally it was known as the chequer tree in Kent and Sussex. Pubs called 'The Chequers' are probably named after the trees. In the past the tree was used to produce charcoal. The berries used to be sold for human consumption, but now normally just eaten by pigeons and other birds.



Yew (*Taxus baccata*) An evergreen tree that grows about 20m. 4 were planted; there is one 10m tree and some smaller trees/bushes already in the wood. It can be found in Europe, Caucasus, N. Africa and Turkey. Yews are thought to live typically for between 400 and 600 years. The Fortingall Yew in Perthshire, Scotland, may be in the range of 2,000 years and so one of the oldest plants in Europe. There are some age estimates that range up to as much as 5,000 years. Yews are often found in churchyards. They were very important for making long-bows in the Middle Ages.



Other tree species in the wood:

Ash (Common) (*Fraxinus excelsior*) A deciduous tree that grows about 30m. There are 12 in the wood. It is found in Europe and Turkey. The people of Scandinavia once worshipped the Ash. The God Odin was said to have carved the first man out of Ash. The wood is white and has traditionally been used for oars, tool handles, tennis rackets and skis. Now 'ash die-back' (Chalara) is causing a major decline in ash trees across Europe. The disease is caused by a fungus and it causes the water distribution system in the tree to become blocked.



Beech (Common) (*Fagus sylvatica*) A deciduous tree that can grow to 50m but more typically 25 - 35m. There are 8 large trees in the wood and a few saplings. It is found in W., C. and S. Europe. It can live up to 200 years. It has a dense canopy so not very much grows under beech trees. Beech nuts can be eaten but they may be a bit astringent. The wood bends easily and is good for use in furniture. There are a number of Beech Trees elsewhere in the village, notably The Avenue.



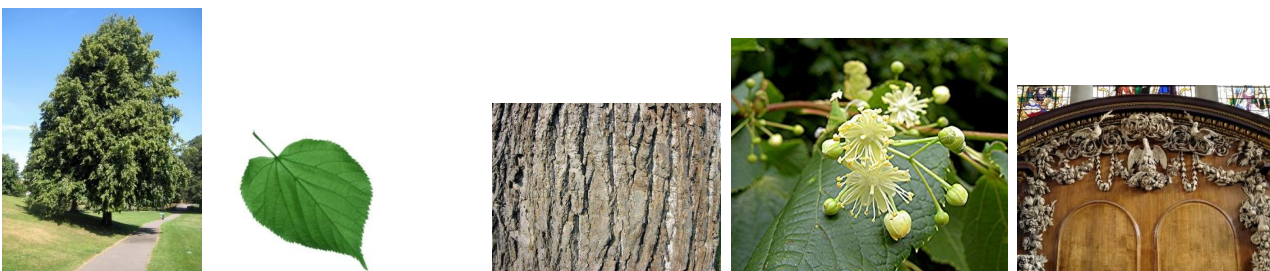
Cherry laurel (or common laurel) (*Prunus laurocerasus*). An evergreen shrub that grows to 8m, sometimes forming a small tree. It is found in SE Europe, and Turkey. It was introduced into the British Isles in 1576 from SE Europe. There are bushes of various sizes in the wood. When crushed, the leaves smell of almonds. It has cherry like black fruit which is not edible for humans.



Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) An evergreen tree that can grow to 55m (the second tallest tree in Britain). There are 3 in the wood. It originates from the West Coast of North America (California / British Columbia) and was brought to the British Isles in 1827. They can live for 1,000 years. It is an important commercial timber, excellent for floors, doors etc.



Lime (Common) (*Tilia × europaea*) A deciduous tree it is a hybrid of the large-leaved lime and small-leaved lime with features common to both species. Some species can grow up to 30m. There are at least 14 scattered throughout the wood of various sizes. It can be found throughout Europe. Limes can live for 400 years. It has a light wood that is used for wood carvings, musical instruments and piano keys. It was the prime choice of wood for the carvings in St Paul's Cathedral, Windsor Castle and Chatsworth House.



Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) An evergreen tree that grows about 35m. There is one in the wood. It is found in Central and Northern Europe, Turkey and Siberia. In the British Isles it is native to Scotland. Pines can live up to 700 years. The wood is traditionally used for telegraph poles, ships' masts and is a source of turpentine, resin and tar.



Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) A *deciduous* tree that grows about 35m. There are over 40 substantial sycamore trees in the wood. It can be found in the mountains of C., S. and SE. Europe and Caucasus. Whilst it is not native to the British Isles, it is one of our most common trees. Traditionally, it is often planted around farms to provide shade and keep the dairy cool. The wood is used in furniture building and for making musical instruments.



Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) A deciduous tree that grows about 20m. There is one in the wood. It can be found in Europe, W. Siberia, Turkey, Caucasus and N. Africa. Native to the British Isles, it is found throughout, grows rapidly and is often planted in parks and gardens. The wood is used in the production of fine furniture. The fruit is smaller and more bitter than cherries normally eaten, but most of the modern varieties were developed from the wild cherry, which was eaten by humans from prehistoric times.

