



THE KENT MEN OF THE TREES



Kent Men of the Trees
Trees in the Village Competition
Amber Cottage
Dane Lane
Hartlip
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME9 7TE

01795 843086
kmott@blandon.co.uk

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Dear Ms Damiral

Trees in the Village Competition 2019

Recently, the judges of the *Trees in the Village Competition* met to discuss this year's results. I am afraid that Borough Green did not win this time but it was "highly commended" by the judging panel.

We would like to present Borough Green with a hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). Our supplier is Kevin Giles (kevingiles@btconnect.com, 07889 289710). Maybe you would like to contact him to organise collection.

Please note that the tree will be bare-rooted and the planting season for such trees usually ends before spring begins. Should you require any assistance in planting the tree the Kent Men of the Trees will be able to help.

I enclose two copies of the report that our judge wrote concerning your village.

Thank you for entering this year.

Yours sincerely

Peter Blandon
Competition Organiser

Borough Green

Date of visit 23rd August 2019

Judge Tess Bruce-Lockhart

I was met by Mike Taylor, who has lived in the village for many years. His love of the place shines out. The village is very lucky to have someone who puts so much time, effort and enthusiasm into the place.

Recreation Ground and Woodland Walk

This is a wonderful asset to the village, being easily accessible in the centre of the village. It is surrounded by a variety of trees, although some have been removed on the western edge to allow more light into the housing. I feel there is scope to plant here with a number of small trees that would enhance the ground without taking too much light from the housing. Also, there is an opportunity to plant between the tennis courts and some new housing when the building work has finished - I suggest contacting the builder and asking for their support.

Nearest the road is a wonderful children's playground. A few trees were successfully planted to create shade, but some were vandalised and have had to be removed - I think these need replacing to provide shade for mothers and children in the playground as summers are getting hotter.

On the Western border is a really wonderful woodland walk with some huge sweet chestnut trees, looking in very good health and plenty of paths through the undergrowth.

Rock Road/Quarry Hill Road

The red maple planted here to replace the previous tree is looking very well - thank you to those involved in the watering of this very pretty tree. My fingers are crossed that it will remain as happy as it looks today.

We could not go into the wood on Quarry Hill Road as work was being done there and it was cordoned off but, the woodland down the road looked in very good heart.

Basted Mill

This is a wonderful amenity for the village with a grassy picnic area and then a lovely woodland walk beside the River Bourne. Here were a number of wonderful trees but some ash trees that look as though they may have Ash die-back, and I think a professional should be consulted.

War Memorial

We passed this on an awkward corner of the road, a very charming small area with another bench made from the King George Oak. I was not in favour of planting a tree here, as I felt it would obscure vision on a difficult junction, but I notice that a previous judge suggested a fastigiata oak to be planted here. I think this would be good as it should not obscure vision if planted towards the back of the area.

Potters Mede Sports Ground

We then drove to the north of the village to this sports ground, cleverly purchased by the parish council, and a sports hall has been built. This is managed by the village, and they cut the grass themselves enabling it to be cut at the correct time and to the correct length. The grass looks in very good condition. The field is surrounded by trees with a lovely woodland walk on the western edge, together with a bench made from the original King George oak, with a very fitting inscription from W. H. Davies

“What is this life if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare”

The trees here look in good order, with some very fine tall oak trees. The ivy on the ground needs watching, but the trees are ivy free and in good condition. The spring apparently heralds a carpet of wood anemones, which must be a wonderful sight. At the southern edge there is some attractive new planting, planted by Mike himself. These could do perhaps with a little mowing to the back row, to enable the trees to flourish and not have too much competition from the grass.

Crow Hill

On the way to Crow Hill we passed some small gardens with good trees, a eucalyptus of some size and, at the last house, a strange cherry tree with the top knot now grown sufficiently large that the tree looks like a ballerina in tutu!

Crow Hill is a small but significant area, ripe for planting. But it is a high point, having 360-degree views and was used in WW2 as an observation post. It now has a King George oak memorial bench. I think that, although others have recommended tree planting, it is best to plant the other recommended areas first, as trees here would obscure the view which is really wonderful and thus lose some of the area's history. But naturally this is for the Parish Council to discuss.