City of Trees
BEEHIVE TREE WALK
www.wgccityoftrees.org.uk

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WELWYN GARDEN CITY IN 2020
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CITY OF TREES

2020 marks one hundred years since the founding of Welwyn Garden City. It embodies Ebenezer Howard’s ideal of a marriage of town and country.

The Welwyn Garden City Foundation was established to develop a programme of events and to create a legacy. One of the ideas was the establishment of a town-wide arboretum – The City of Trees.

One of the greatest pleasures of the town is the beauty and variety of the 20,000 trees in its streets and public places and of the surrounding woods. The City of Trees project seeks to make this legacy accessible to all by providing information about the trees and to encourage a full appreciation of the environmental, health, economic, aesthetic, and educational benefits.

The town is most fortunate to have not only a legacy of a large number and diversity of trees but an active and enthusiastic Landscape and Ecology Department within the local council. Information from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has been made available to the Project Team and has been invaluable in devising the tree walks and in the preparation of maps for use in the walk leaflets and on the web site – www.wgccityoftrees.org.uk.

The website gives a description of the trees in the town, highlighting those of particular interest and the best seasons for viewing them. It gives details of a series of walks and information about the trees with links to web sites where additional information can be found. It also contains a photo gallery and children’s section.

Links to further information:

Welwyn Garden City Centenary Foundation
www.wgc100.org

Welwyn Garden City Horticultural Society
www.wgchortsoc.org.uk

Welwyn Garden City Society
www.wgcsoc.org.uk

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
www.welhat.gov.uk

Centenary Walk
www.wgc100.org/centenary-walk/

Woodland Trust
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
(Free tree ID app for Android and iPhones available)

Sherrardspark Wood Wardens Society
www.sherrardsparkwoodwardens.org.uk

Other walks in this series:

The Campus
Handside and Stanborough
Sherrardspark Wood

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this leaflet is correct, the treescape in Welwyn Garden City is changing all the time – old and diseased trees are being removed and new ones planted. Please keep this in mind when using our leaflets and website.

In the Junior Corner of our website www.wgccityoftrees.org.uk you will find a printable page which shows the leaves of twelve of the trees in this area.

Can you see the differences in the shapes of the leaves and match them with the leaves you see on the trees?

Can you find the names of the trees using the Thumbswood map on this leaflet?

The answers can be found in the Junior Corner of our website.

HISTORY OF TREES IN WGC

Junior Corner
Wood you Beleaf it!
Beehive Green

1. Sweet gum Liquidambar styraciflua
2. Paper bark birch Betula papyrifera
3. Common ash Fraxinus excelsior
4. Crab apple Malus sp.
5. Common walnut Juglans regia
6. Turkish hazel Corylus colurna
7. Tulip tree Liriodendron tulipifera
8. Raywood ash Fraxinus angustifolia ‘Raywood’
9. Red oak Quercus rubra
10. Red ash Fraxinus pennsylvanica
11. Swedish whitebeam Sorbus intermedia
12. Cockspur thorn Crataegus x lavallei ‘Carrieri’
13. Cherry Prunus sp.
14. Roble beech Nothofagus obliqua
15. Persian ironwood Parrotia persica

Thumbswood

1. English oak Quercus robur
2. Common ash Fraxinus excelsior
3. Norway maple Acer platanoides
4. Manna ash Fraxinus ornus
5. Swedish whitebeam Sorbus intermedia
6. Hawthorn Crataegus monogyna
7. Elm Ulmus sp.
8. Rowan Sorbus aucuparia
9. Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus
10. Swamp cypress Taxodium distichum
11. Weeping willow Salix x chrysocoma
12. Grey alder Alnus incana
13. Common hornbeam Carpinus betulus
14. Common whitebeam Sorbus aria
15. Rowan
16. Weeping willow and elm
17. Norway maple
18. Swamp cypress

Group of paper bark birches behind the red foliage of the sweet gum

Magnificent tulip tree on Beehive Green

Beehive Lane

Moorlands
DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

The best place to start the Beehive Tree Walk is at the Woodhall Parade where there is parking available. Along the edge of the Parade are cherries which have beautiful blossom in spring.

Cross Cole Green Lane into the open area bounded by Gooseacre. See the Woodhall map showing trees of interest to be found there. These include a number of varieties of cherry and crab apple which give a great display in spring and an interesting specimen of black walnut.

From Gooseacre the route leads down Hyde Valley where there are fine examples of Norway and silver maples.

At the end of Hyde Valley cross over Homestead Lane onto the path leading through the King George V Playing Field area. The entrance is flanked by impressive elms. Follow the path across the area which is lined with purple peafed plum and whitebeam and exit right past more elms onto Marley Road with its crab apple trees on either side. The green space in a close of houses on the north side of the road has a recently planted medlar.

At the T-junction with Beehive Lane turn right and cross the road. Continue down Beehive Lane. The left side of this stretch of Beehive Lane is flanked by a magnificent row of mature oaks, both the common oak and the red oak. Note the enormous size of the red oak’s leaves.

When you reach Moorlands turn left down it until you reach Thumbswood on the left. See the Thumbswood map which shows the open area on the left side of Thumbswood and the ‘green finger’ leading to Beehive Lane. This area has a number of interesting trees including specimens of swamp cypress, Norway maple and weeping willow.

For those wanting a shorter walk turn down Thumbswood and explore the open area now. For the full walk continue a short way down Moorlands to a right turn down Sheepcote.

BEEHIVE TREE WALK
The route passes down Sheepcote until its junction with Howlands. Sheepcote is lined with the purple leaved plum. Of particular interest, opposite the turn into The Jinnings, is a fine specimen of blue cedar. Near the junction with Howlands on the right side of the road is an open space where a small mini orchard has been planted. There are specimens of medlar, apple and pear.

At the junction turn left down Howlands. On the far side of the junction is a row of horse chestnut (below).

Proceed along Howlands until opposite the junction with The Commons where there is a left turn entrance into Archers Ride green space. Much of the area is bounded by thorn and there are fine specimens of oak and willow. Cross the field and by the children’s play area there is an exit into Hillside guarded by two fine silver maple. The central green in Hillside has a number of cherry trees which are good to see with their spring blossom. Pass through Hillside and turn left at Moorlands.

This leads to Thumbswood (see map overleaf) where the shorter and longer walks merge. Turn right into Thumbswood and take the ‘green finger’ on the side of Thumbswood to join Beehive Lane. Turn right along Beehive Lane. On your right you will see an avenue of lime trees leading up The Limes. This used to be the main entrance to Ludwick Hall. Continue along Beehive Lane noting the young Foxglove trees on the south side until you reach the entrance to Beehive Green on the left (see Beehive Green map). The central area has a wonderful diversity of interesting trees including Roble beech, Sweet gum, Paper bark birch, and Turkish hazel. The Reywood ash is magnificent in autumn. Cross Beehive Green and on the north side there is a passageway through to Cole Green Lane. Turn left onto Cole Green Lane with its mature trees of interest including small leaved lime and purple Norway maple. Follow the road until you rejoin the start point at Woodhall Parade.