

# THE REMARKABLE TREES OF SEVENOAKS CELEBRATING AND PROTECTING OUR TREES

A Project and Exhibition by  
The Sevenoaks Society

Supported by The Conservation Volunteers  
Kent Heritage Trees Project

## Do You Know...?

In the exhibition, you will find answers to these questions and more:

- Which are the oldest trees in Sevenoaks?
- And the biggest?
- Where were the original oaks of Sevenoaks?
- When did Sevenoaks become One Oak – and then Eight Oaks?
- Why are Wellingtonias so called and what is their connection with Sevenoaks?
- What is the story behind the planting of the limes in Wildernesse Avenue?
- Whose ghost strolls sadly down The Duchess Walk in Knole on windy, moonless nights?



- Why were cherry trees planted in the grounds of West Heath Girls' School in 1981?
- Who was the witch that lived in The Old Oak in Knole – and what was her curse?
- How many different types of wildlife live in an oak tree?
- Why are dead trees so important for beetles?
- Where is the "Beatles tree" in Knole?
- Why is the Monkey Puzzle Tree so called and where does it come from?
- Who were the intrepid "Tree-Hunters", and what other species did they introduce to Sevenoaks?

## The Sevenoaks Society

The Society exists to:

- Help protect the town's heritage and character
- Stimulate responsible and responsive town planning
- Keep a watchful eye on developments to ensure they are appropriate and worthy of the town
- Provide impartial & authoritative comment to planning bodies on specific planning proposals.

To find out more about the Society, visit our website at [www.sevenoakssociety.org.uk](http://www.sevenoakssociety.org.uk), email us at [info@sevenoakssociety.org.uk](mailto:info@sevenoakssociety.org.uk), or ring David Gamble on 01732 458898.

To join, send in the enclosed application form.

For more information about the project and exhibition ring Keith Wade on **01732 451223**.

## The Conservation Volunteers' Kent Heritage Trees Project

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) have been helping communities and schools to improve green spaces for over 50 years, providing support and expertise for local projects.

The Kent Heritage Trees Project is a five year heritage lottery grant-funded project which aims to celebrate and promote the value of heritage trees and to inspire local communities about the wonder of their local heritage trees and woodlands.

Individuals and groups can contribute to the project by recording heritage trees for the Kent map at [www.tcv.org.uk/kentheritagetrees](http://www.tcv.org.uk/kentheritagetrees) or by organising a Big Tree Plant in their local area for which free trees are available. Discover which trees are already recorded in your area by looking at the on-line map.

## Exhibition Dates and Venue

**15 September – 12 October  
2014, The National Trust's  
Orangery, Knole, Sevenoaks**

Entrance to the Orangery and Exhibition is free. See the Knole National Trust web-site for opening times: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole)



Contact The Sevenoaks Society if you wish to use or display any of the material for educational or related purposes.

Riverhill Himalayan Gardens is open to the public on certain days: visit [www.riverhillgardens.co.uk](http://www.riverhillgardens.co.uk) for details.

The Society is grateful to The Conservation Volunteers' Kent Heritage Trees Project for their support, The National Trust for hosting the exhibition, the Sevenoaks Camera Club for taking many of the photographs, the Knole Estate and the other owners of the trees featured, and all the many others who have contributed in various ways. Leaflet sponsored and printed by Kent Heritage Trees Project

### The Sevenoaks Society

- for the Conservation and Improvement of the Town



## The Project

### Identifying Our Most Remarkable Trees

“The Remarkable Trees of Sevenoaks” is an on-going project of The Sevenoaks Society to locate, record and celebrate the most significant trees in the town, and to highlight the need to protect them. Sevenoaks is famous world-wide because of its oaks. But there are many other species and individual trees that have been identified as important: a tree may be “remarkable” because of its age, size, location, rarity, vulnerability, historical or cultural association, ecological value – or just its sheer beauty.

The scope of the project is wide, covering both native and introduced species in private gardens, public parks, grand estates and ancient woodlands, and by busy roads and quiet by-ways within the parish and its immediate environs. The involvement of the community, with suggestions of trees by members of the public and links with local schools, is an important part of the project.

*The oaks by the Vine cricket ground, showing the sole survivor of the 1987 “hurricane” (centre) next to the replacements*



## The Exhibition

**15 September – 12 October 2014**  
**The Orangery, Knole House**

The main aims of the exhibition are to raise awareness of the importance of our trees and woodlands as part of our heritage, environment and community, and to highlight the need for their care and preservation. It provides a summary of the results of the Society’s research and features a selection of some of our most notable trees, including those in Knole Park and Riverhill Himalayan Gardens.



*One of the Henry VIII chestnuts in the grounds of Wildernesse House*

The trees that are show-cased have been selected for various reasons. Several are record-breakers for their height, girth or longevity. Many have fascinating stories associated with them, such as the splendid 1509 sweet chestnuts in the Wildernesse Estate planted to commemorate the marriage of Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon.

**CHAMPION TREES** A champion tree is the most remarkable of its species, nationally or locally – normally because of its height or girth. Champion trees are validated and recorded by The Tree Register. We have 28 champions in Sevenoaks.



*The tallest sessile oak in Britain, in Knole Park*



*An ancient oak pollard*

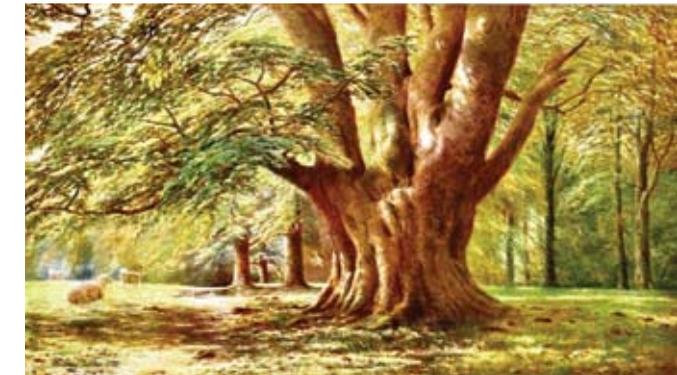
**HERITAGE TREES** A heritage tree is one that has contributed to or is connected with our history and culture and is irreplaceable. They include commemorative trees and those associated with significant events or famous people. Trees may be also be given heritage status for their rarity, architectural or landscape setting, aesthetic appearance or botanical interest. Some of Sevenoaks’ heritage trees are of national importance.

**ANCIENT TREES** An “ancient” tree is not just a very old tree – officially it is one that has passed beyond maturity and is old in comparison with other trees of the same species.

Some trees therefore will be very old for their type, but youngsters in comparison with other trees. A 100-year willow or birch is ancient for its species, but a beech of that age is barely out of its nursery and if coppiced could expect to live for another 900 years or so.

**LOST TREES** Although many of the trees in Sevenoaks are ancient, trees do not live forever. Some are lost because they have come to the end of their life or as a result of natural events such as pest, disease or storm. Others are lost at the hand of man – through neglect, vandalism, pollution or development.

One of the most famous of Sevenoaks’ lost trees was King Beech – in its time the biggest in the land, as pictured here in the 1880 painting by RA Butler on display in the exhibition.



**UNUSUAL TREES** Some trees are just fun to look at, such as the “dancing” hornbeam and stag’s head hawthorn in Knole Park.

