



Whilst Borough Green is undoubtedly a rural community, people driving through can be forgiven for labelling us as a bit urban, especially in the heart of the village with intense development and pounding HGV traffic. But that apparent urban aspect conceals the fact that we are particularly blessed with trees.

Every year we are "inspected" by the Kent Men of Trees organisation, and every year we earn a commendation, in 2016 we actually won a prize of £25 worth of indigenous trees.

We always get a glowing report, and it isn't until you have had the privilege as I have, of touring the village just looking for trees that you start to see how much we have. So walk our village, and look at the trees, I guarantee it is worthwhile.

The Avenue of Limes on Basted House Drive, the adjacent cedars on Harrison Rd, the woodland walks at the Rec and Potters Mede are the big and obvious examples, and little Staley's Acre, but when you look closely the whole village has some really beautiful and magnificent trees. And don't forget our "wild" woodland at Isles Quarry East and Crowhill.

I know some people grumble about leaves on the roof and in the gutter, the mess each autumn, but I think this is a small price to pay to live alongside these majestic beings.

In the Rec near the Ballpark there is a huge sweet chestnut, and absolute monster of a tree, in the Potters woodland walk there is a dozen or so immensely tall and arrow straight oaks. These trees are hundreds of years old, think what they have seen - what was Borough Green like when they first sprouted? And the trees we are planting now - what will they see, how will Borough Green be then?

In 2016 we planted some 50 new trees at Potters Mede to extend the existing Woodland Walk. We have seven oak and beech saplings donated by Janet Lucas's family, the three hornbeams donated by Kent Men of Trees, forty mixed trees purchased by the Parish Council, and a small oak grown from an acorn rescued by Bill Graham from the Coronation Oak in Quarry Hill.

None of us will live to see this as woodland, but what a legacy to leave for future residents.

So Borough Green can be justly proud of its existing trees, and proud that in a time when people are destroying woodland habitat, we are resisting that trend and planting new and preserving the old.

Mike Taylor

