

# **Parc Cefn Onn Stroll through the Trees**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**Lead by: Peter Kent**

Trees identified and described below can be found in the Park by matching the numbers to those on associated Maps 1 and 2.

**1. Rubus tricolor**

Rosaceae

Chinese Bramble

Attractive evergreen ground cover shrub from western China. A good shrub for shady places, forming an extensive carpet even under beech trees. Discovered by Abbé Delavay; introduced by E. H. Wilson in 1908.

**2. Sorbaria tomentosa var. angustifolia**

Rosaceae

Spiraea

A strong growing shrub from Afghanistan and Kashmir which has large pinnate leaves and large panicles of white flowers. Old flower stems can be hard pruned in February or March to encourage the production of strong shoots with extra large leaves and flowers. Introduced C. 1840.

**3. Cornus alba**

Cornaceae

Red-barked Dogwood

Bright red stems up to 3m tall make this a shrub for winter colour, succeeding in wet or dry soils and the leaves colour well in the autumn. Native to Siberia, Manchuria and N. Korea. Introduced in 1741.

**4. Chamaecyparis lawsoniana**

Cupressaceae

Lawson Cypress

A useful and ornamental tree that makes an excellent hedge or screen even in exposed conditions and shade. It is native to S.W. Oregon N.W. California where it can reach a height of 60m. Introduced in 1854 when seeds were sent to Lawson's nursery of Edinburgh.

**5. Acer capilipes**

Aceraceae

Snake-bark Maple

This small tree, infrequently planted in the UK, was introduced from Japan in 1892. The striped bark is decorative in winter and autumn colours of yellow, orange and red add to its attraction.

6. **Parrotia persica**  
Hamamelidaceae

Persian Ironwood

Commonly planted wide spreading large shrub or small tree whose flaking bark adds winter decoration. The flowers consist of clusters of crimson stamens that appear before the leaves. One of the finest small trees for autumn colour even on chalk. Introduced C.1841 from N. Iraq.

7. **Picea breweriana**  
Pinaceae

Brewer's Weeping Spruce

A handsome tree from the Klamath and Siskiyou mountains around the border between California and Oregon, introduced in 1891.

8. **Liquidambar styraciflua**  
Hamamelidaceae

Sweet Gum

Introduced in the 17 century, from eastern United States, this beautiful large tree has year round appeal. The shining green leaves of summer turn crimson and deep wine reds in the autumn. The corky wings on the twigs provide winter interest.

9. **Fagus sylvatica "Pendula"**  
Fagaceae

Weeping Beech

A spectacular large tree the weeping form of our native beech.

10. **Acer palmatum**  
Aceraceae

Japanese Maple

Many cultivars have been raised from this species, which exhibit a wide range of forms in both leaf and habit. Known for its gorgeous red, orange or yellow autumn colour.

11. **Thujaopsis dolabrata**  
Cupressaceae

Hiba

Introduced in 1853 from Japan this small to medium-sized evergreen tree is common in the west from Argyll to Cornwall. It is related to Thuja but differs in its flatter branchlets and larger leaves.

12. **Sequoia sempervirens**  
Taxodiaceae

Coast Redwood or Californian Redwood

Named for Sequoyah (1770-1843) who invented the Cherokee alphabet. Native to a thin coastal strip from just inside Oregon to south of Monterey, California. Introduced via Russia in 1843.

13. **Picea smithiana**

Pinaceae

Morinda or West Himalayan Spruce

Infrequent but in many large gardens as a specimen tree. Similar to *Picea breweriana* but branches are erect, not swaged, with up curved tips and shiny red-brown buds. Native from Afghanistan to Nepal introduced in 1818.

14. **Abies koreana**

Pinaceae

Korean Fir

A small slow growing tree of neat habit. A native of South Korea producing its violet-purple cones even on young trees little more than one meter tall. Introduced in 1905.

15. **Cryptomeria japonica “Lycopodioides”**

Taxodiaceae

Japanese Red Cedar

One of three *Cryptomeria* growing in this park. *Cryptomeria japonica* quickly become large irregular bushes. They are frequently planted as park trees and do best in western areas of Britain. It resembles in some ways the “*Wellingtonia*” (*Sequoiadendron*) but its leaves are longer and its bark is not spongy. Introduced in 1842 from Japan.

16. **Acer pseudoplatanus “Brilliantissimum”**

Aceraceae

Sycamore Cultivar

A very attractive small, slow growing tree, related to the Sycamore. The leaves emerge shrimp pink, turn gradually bright yellow then white until July then dark green. Ideal for the smaller garden it is of unknown British origin since 1900.

17. **Cunninghamia lanceolata**

Taxodiaceae

Chinese Fir

Infrequent in South and West England, rare elsewhere. They are fairly hardy, but thrive best in a sheltered position. Originally from South and West China they were introduced in 1804.

18. **Taxus baccata “Dovastoniana”**

Taxaceae

Westfelton Yew

A very distinct, wide-spreading small elegant tree, the original was planted in 1777 at Westfelton, Shropshire.

19. **Abies veitchii**

Pinaceae

Veitch’s Silver Fir

This beautiful large, fast growing tree will not do well on chalk. Discovered by John Gould Veitch on Mount Fuji in 1860 and introduced by Charles Maries in 1879.

20. **Euonymus planipes**

Celastraceae

Shakkalin Euonymus

Introduced from NE Asia the leaves of this shrub display good autumn reds it also has larger scarlet fruits than the common Spindle tree to which it is closely related.

**21. Euonymus alatus**

Celastraceae

Winged Spindle

One of the finest deciduous shrubs for autumn colour. It is distinguished by corky wings on the twigs under favourable conditions. A native of China and Japan it was introduced in 1860.

**22. Rehderodendron macrocarpum**

Styracaceae

Rehderodendron

Extremely rare this tree is one of five growing in the UK. Named for Alfred Rehder (1863-1949) who was a horticulturist and taxonomist at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Discovered on Mount Omei western China in by Mr F.T. Wang in 1931 and introduced by Professor Hu in 1934.

**23. Pterostyrax hispida**

Styracaceae

Epaulette Tree

These large shrubs or small trees succeed in all types of good deep soil even over chalk. In June and July they produce fragrant, white flowers in drooping panicles, which are followed by spindle-shaped five-ribbed fruits. Introduced from China, Japan in 1875.

**24. Abies procera "Glauca"**

Pinaceae

Noble Fir

Introduced from Washington and Oregon in 1830 by David Douglas. This selection with blue-grey leaves became available from C 1868. Firs do not grow well on chalk or shallow soils and will not grow well in towns, as they dislike pollution.

**25. Picea sitchensis**

Pinaceae

Sitka Spruce

This fast growing tree is the most commonly planted tree in the British Isles particularly in the north and Wales. A native of western N. America, occurring from California north to Alaska it was discovered by Archibald Menzies in 1792, and introduced by David Douglas in 1831.

26. **Ilex aquifolium “Bacciflava”**

Aquifoliaceae

Yellow-fruited Holly

A handsome cultivar of common Holly with heavy crops of bright yellow fruits, which is infrequently planted.

27. **Thuja plicata**

Cupressaceae

Western Red Cedar

This fast growing ornamental tree also makes a good hedge or screen as it withstands clipping well. Introduced from western North America by William Lobb in 1853 it resembles Lawson Cypress. Thujas have an erect tip and the leaves are pleasantly aromatic.

28. **Chamaecyparis pisifera “Squarrosa”**

Cupressaceae

Sawara Cypress

A small to medium sized tree of broadly conical outline with spreading branches and dense, billowy sprays of bluish juvenile foliage, soft to the touch. This commonly planted cultivar was introduced from Japan in 1861 and is dotted through this park.

29. **Pseudotsuga menziesii**

Pinaceae

Oregon Douglas Fir

This is an important timber tree both here and in North America. The Douglas Fir is currently Britain’s tallest tree at 62.5 m (210ft) in Argyll, Scotland. They are native to Western North America where specimens of 90 m have been recorded. Discovered by Archibald Menzies in 1792 and introduced by David Douglas in 1827.

30. **Hamamelis mollis**

Hamamelidaceae

Chinese Witch Hazel

This winter flowering shrub produces yellow spider-like flowers on the leafless branches in January. The strap-shaped petals of the scented flowers withstand the severest weather and the leaves turn yellow in the Autumn. Introduced by C. Maries in 1879.

31. **Magnolia campbellii**

Magnoliaceae

Pink Tulip Tree

This large tree attains its greatest dimensions in the warmer counties. The very large flowers are usually pink within and deep rose-pink without and only appear on 20 to 30 year old trees. Native of East Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan they were introduced in 1870.

32. **Acer griseum**

Aceraceae

Paperbark Maple

A small tree with trifoliate leaves which turn red and scarlet in the autumn. Introduced from central China in 1901.

33. **Cedrus atlantica "Glauca"**

Pinaceae

Blue Cedar

A very common tree planted in nearly every civic and private garden. These large trees are renown for their grandeur, longevity and blue-grey leaves. This most decorative conifer is a native of the Atlas mountains of north Africa.

34. **Berberis gagnepaninii**

Berberidaceae

Barberry

This small to medium sized shrub has yellow flowers that are followed by black berries covered in a blue bloom. It is evergreen and forms an impenetrable hedge. Introduced from west China in 1904.

35. **Sequoiadendron giganteum**

Taxodiaceae

Wellingtonia or Big Tree

These famously big trees are believed to be the biggest living things on the earth. "General Sherman" 82.9m tall × 24.1m girth, "Grizzly Giant" 61m × 22m and "General Grant" 81.5m × 24.3m. The oldest authenticated age of a felled tree is about 3,200 years, which makes them the oldest living things. Introduced from the Sierra Nevada mountains in California in 1853.

**36. Ruscus aculeatus**

Liliaceae

Butchers Broom

A small, erect native shrub forming thick evergreen clumps by means of underground stems. A useful plant for dry shade on all soil types. The apparent leaves are really flattened stems (cladodes) which carry out the functions of the true leaves.

**37. Enkianthus cernuus rubens**

Ericaceae

Drooping Red Enkianthus

The best form of a choice Japanese species noteworthy for its deep-red fringed, urn-shaped flowers, which appear in May. This medium sized shrub requires a lime free soil. Introduced to Europe in 1910.

**38. Cryptomeria japonica "Cristata"**

Taxodiaceae

Japanese Red Cedar cultivar

A small to medium sized rare tree, many of the branches are flattened (fasciated) into great cockscomb- like growths.

**39. Sarcococca confusa**

Buxaceae

Christmas Box

This attractive shade-bearing shrub will grow well on any soil including chalk. The very fragrant flowers appear in February and are followed by black fruits. The glossy evergreen foliage is suitable for cutting. Origin uncertain.

**40. Styrax obassia**

Styracaceae

Round Leaved Snowbell

A beautiful large shrub or small round headed tree. The underside of the leaves are clothed with a soft velvety tomentum. The fragrant, bell-shaped flowers are carried in long drooping racemes in June. Introduced by Charles Maries in 1879 from Japan.



41. **Acer palmatum “Sango-kaku”**

Aceraceae

Coral Bark Maple

An invaluable small tree for winter effect as all the younger branches are a conspicuous coral-red. The leaves turn soft canary-yellow in the autumn.

42. **Abies grandis**

Pinaceae

Giant or Grand Fir

This fast growing tree quickly attains a large size and grows best in areas of heavy rainfall. At 46m this may be the tallest tree in Cardiff. The crushed leaves give off a fruity orange-flavour. It is native to western North America from British Columbia south to California. Introduced by David Douglas in 1830.

43. **Nothofagus dombeyi**

Fagaceae

Southern Beech

This fast growing evergreen tree is fairly hardy but may lose its leaves in cold winters. Native to Chile and Argentina it was introduced in 1916.

44. **Crinodendron hookerianum**

Elaeocarpaceae

Lantern Tree

This tree requires a lime free soil and partial shade. It is only suitable to the milder areas of Britain. A native of Chile it was introduced by William Lobb in 1848.

45. **Davidia involucrata**

Davidiaceae

Pocket-handkerchief Tree

This beautiful medium sized tree is most conspicuous in May when it is draped with its large white bracts. A native of central and western China it was discovered by the French missionary David in 1869 and introduced by Ernest Henry "Chinese" Wilson in 1904.

46. **Fagus sylvatica**

Fagaceae

Beech

This large noble tree also makes a fine hedge. This European native thrives in acidic and chalky soils. The rich golden-copper of its autumn foliage is not excelled by any other tree and the timber is used to make fine furniture.

47. **Berberis thunbergii**

Berberidaceae

Barberry

This easily cultivated shrub that will grow in sun or shade is unsurpassed in the brilliance of its autumn colour and bright red berries. Named for Carl Peter Thunberg a Swedish naturalist, it is a native of Japan and was introduced in 1883.

48. **Hydrangea petiolaris**

Hydrangeaceae

Climbing Hydrangea

A strong growing self-clinging shrub that can reach 25m. Can be grown on a north facing wall and industrial sites as it is tolerant of atmospheric pollution. A native of Japan and South Korea, introduced in 1865.

49. **Stewartia pseudocamellia**

Theaceae

Stewartia

Named in honour of John Stuart, Earl of Bute, chief adviser to Augusta, Princess Dowager of Wales, when she founded the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. A small to medium sized tree with attractive flaking bark. The flowers are produced in the leaf axils in July and August. The leaves turn to yellow and red in the autumn. This infrequently seen tree was introduced from Japan in 1874.

50. **Lagarostrobos franklinii**

Podocarpaceae

Huon Pine

Native to western Tasmania this slow growing tree can live for over 2000 years. It is now a protected species but the yellow wood is highly prized for cabinet making. Named for Sir John Franklin, the Arctic explorer, who was Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land.

51. **Viburnum rhytidophyllum**

Caprifoliaceae

Viburnum

This large, fast growing, evergreen shrub is a native of central and western China, it was introduced by Ernest Wilson in 1900. This shrub is suitable for most soil types, particularly chalk. An all round tough plant suitable for problem areas but it will not tolerate wet soil.

52. **Berberis darwinii**

Berberidaceae

Darwins Barberry

An early flowering evergreen shrub with three pointed dark, shining green leaves. First discovered in Chile in 1835 by Charles Darwin on the voyage of the "Beagle". Introduced by William Lobb in 1849.

53. **Cornus "Norman Hadden"**

Cornaceae

Dogwood "Norman Hadden"

A large deciduous shrub, with elliptic leaves turning reddish in autumn. Flowerheads to 8cm in width, with four ovate white bracts which turn pink with age. The strawberry-like fruit is sterile so propagation is by cuttings. Cornus 'Norman Hadden' is a cross between a *C. kousa* and a *C. capitata*, originating from the garden of plantsman Norman Hadden in Porlock, England.

54. **Cryptomeria japonica "Elegans"**

Taxodiaceae

Japanese Cedar

A beautiful clone of tall bushy habit, eventually making a small tree. The soft, feathery juvenile foliage is retained throughout the life and becomes an attractive red-bronze during autumn and winter. Introduced from Japan by Thomas Lobb in 1854.

55. **Acer saccharinum**

Aceraceae

Silver Maple

A large fast growing tree with brittle branches and relatively short-lived. The five lobed leaves are silvery-white beneath creating a delightful effect in a wind. Autumn colour is mainly soft gold occasional scarlet and crimson.

56. **Aesculus indica**

Hippocastanaceae

Indian Horse Chestnut

An infrequently planted tree from the Himalayas. The pink flushed flowers are born in June and July on panicles 13 to 30 cm high and 8 cm wide. Introduced in 1851.

**57. Pinus sylvestris**

Pinaceae

Scots Pine

The UK only native pine but wild stands of this tree are only found in N Scotland although it was common all over England and Wales. A familiar tree easily recognised even from a distance by its reddish / orange young bark

**58. Acer palmatum coreanum**

Aceraceae

Japanese Maple

*Acer palmatum* is a native of Japan, Central China and Korea introduced in 1820. *Coreanum* is a geographical form whose leaves become a rich crimson in autumn, lasting longer than most.

**59. Larix decidua**

Pinaceae

European Larch

A deciduous conifer that produces useful timber. The timber is tough and waterproof it is used for boat building and cladding buildings. The timber is resistant to rot when in contact with the soil so can be used for fence posts. The leaves are borne in dense rosettes on short spurs they emerge bright green in the spring and turn butter yellow in the autumn.

**60. Metasequoia glyptostroboides**

Taxodiaceae

Dawn Redwood

A native of S.W. China. First discovered in 1941 by Mr T Kan, described in 1944 and introduced to the UK in 1948. A strong growing deciduous conifer of conical habit. The flattened leaves are borne in two opposite ranks on short deciduous opposite branchlets.

**61. Taxodium distichum**

Cupressaceae

Swamp or Bald Cypress

Similar to the Dawn Redwood except that the leaves are borne in two ranks that are not opposite on short deciduous branchlets that are arranged in spirals on the persistent branches. This is the dominant tree of the Florida Everglades and was first introduced by John Tradescant about 1640

62. **Viburnum plicatum “sterile”**

Caprifoliaceae

Japanese Snowball

The white sterile flowers of this popular shrub gathered into globular heads. They are produced in pairs along the length of the arching branches in May and early June. Long cultivated in China and Japan it was introduced for China by Robert Fortune in 1844.

63. **Chamaecyparis pisifera “Filifera Aurea”**

Cupressaceae

Sawara Cypress

This infrequent large shrub or small tree is distinguished by its thread like shoots with small bunches of side shoots at long intervals. It is often broader than it is tall and was introduced from Japan in 1889.

64. **Cercidiphyllum japonicum**

Cercidiphyllaceae

Katsura Tree

An attractive tree with leaves similar to those of the “Judas Tree” (Cercis), but opposite and smaller. The leaves emerge from their buds bright pink but quickly turn green. In the autumn they can be red or orange but they are mostly yellow to dusty pink and they give of a sweet caramel or burnt sugar scent. Introduced from China and Japan in 1881.

65. **Abies bracteata**

Pinaceae

The Bristlecone Fir or Santa Lucia Fir

This infrequently planted tree, introduced by William Lobb in 1852 will eventually reach 40 m in height. The spindle shaped pointed bud resembles that of the beach tree. It is a native of the Santa Lucia mountains of Southern California.

66. **Acer laxiflorum**

Aceraceae

Maple

A small rare tree with striated bark and dark green leaves. This champion tree is from Western China and was introduced in 1908.

**67. Enkianthus campanulatus**

Ericaceae

Enkianthus

This shrub requires a lime free soil and will grow up to 3 m high. It produces urn shaped flowers which are pink tinged along the rims and veins. The autumn foliage is every shade between yellow and red. Introduced from Japan in 1880.

**68. Elaeagnus pungens**

Elaeagnaceae

Elaeagnus

This evergreen shrub is good for informal hedges and shelter belts. The leaves and young stems are speckled white and golden brown underneath. The autumn flowers are fragrant. Introduced from Japan in 1830.

**69. Fitzroya cupressoides**

Cupressaceae

Patagonian Cypress

Named for Robert Fitzroy the captain of the Beagle. In 1993 a specimen from Chile was found to be 3622 years old. The evergreen leaves are born in whorls of 3 on graceful drooping branches. Introduced from Chile, Argentina by William Lobb in 1849.

**70. Sycopsis sinensis**

Hamamelidaceae

Sycopsis

A medium to large shrub with leathery evergreen leaves. The petal less flowers consist of clusters of yellow and red anthered stamens enclosed by chocolate brown scales and are produced in February and March. Introduced from China by E H Wilson in 1901.

**71. Ilex dipterocarpon**

Aquifoliaceae

Holly

The Parks Horticultural Officer says of this tree, "An eye-catching evergreen foliage shrub adorned by an ancient, barely legible, label. I have been unable to

find a tree of this name in the literature; indeed, the only remotely similar description is of Ilex vomitoria in "Beans Trees and Shrubs"; the descriptions of I.v. in other references differ. I've never seen another. Ilex dipyrrena?"

**72. Kolkwitzia amabilis**

Caprifoliaceae

Beauty Bush

A very hardy and adaptable medium sized shrub. In May to June the drooping branches are covered in masses of bell shaped flowers, soft pink with a yellow throat. The calyces and pedicels are conspicuously hairy. Introduced by Ernest Wilson from Western China in 1901.

**73. Rubus cockburnianus**

Rosaceae

White-stemmed Bramble

A strong growing medium size shrub whose arching purple stems are overlaid with a vivid white bloom which stands out in winter. A good plant for a problem area as it will tolerate full sun, drought and full shade. From North and Central China introduced in 1907.

**74. Liriodendron tulipifera**

Magnoliaceae

Tulip Tree

A large tree with odd shaped leaves which turn butter yellow in the autumn. In June and July tulip shaped yellow-green flowers are produced, prolific only in hot summers. Introduced in 1688 from North America.

**75. Taxodium ascendens**

Taxodiaceae

Pond Cypress

A small to medium size deciduous tree. Uncommon as it is confined to the south and west of the UK. Introduced in 1789 from the swamps of S.E. USA. A striking sight in June when fresh green shoots appear and in autumn when the leaves turn a rich brown.

**76. Magnolia salicifolia**

Magnoliaceae

Willow-leaved Magnolia

This infrequently planted tree will produce masses of pure white flowers in April before the leaves. The crushed leaves are very aromatic producing a sweet lemon like scent. Introduced from Japan in 1892.

**77. Trochodendron aralioides**

Trochodendraceae

Trochodendron

A large slow growing evergreen shrub that is extremely winter tolerant. The flowers are borne in spring and early summer and are rayed like the spokes of a wheel (*trochos* is Greek for wheel and *dendron*, a tree). Introduced in 1894 from Japan and South Korea.

**78. Athrotaxis selaginoides**

Taxodiaceae

King William Pine or Tasmanian Cedar

A very rare tree similar in appearance to some junipers but bearing cones in pairs rather than Gin flavouring berries. Named for an aboriginal gentleman called William Lanne Introduced from Tasmania about 1857.

**79. Sasa veitchii**

Poaceae

Veitch's Bamboo

A small 0.6 to 1.2 metre tall clump forming bamboo. It distinguishes itself by killing the edges of its leaves to form the variegation. Introduced from Japan in 1880.