



Reg. Charity No. 1039008

Patron: The Countess Mountbatten of Burma C.B.E.
President: Sir Charles Jessel Bt



MOAT FARM HOUSE, ASH, CANTERBURY, CT3 2DG

November, 2014

Dear Hazel Damiral

TREES IN THE VILLAGE COMPETITION 2013

I have great pleasure in informing you that at our judges meeting to consider awards in this year's competition that Borough Green was placed in the top twenty villages in the County of Kent. We have great pleasure, therefore, in enclosing the Kent Men of the Trees 'HIGHLY COMMENDED' Certificate.

We enclose two copies of the judges report on the trees in your village, one for your records and one for Cllr Mike Taylor your village representative. We hope you will find the report helpful and that you will be able to act upon any recommendations made by our judge.

Thank you for entering the competition this year and we do hope you will enter again in 2015. Details of the 2015 competition will, we hope, be in the Kent Parish News early in the New Year.

We heartedly congratulate Borough Green on being so Highly Commended this year.

Yours sincerely

Competition Co-ordinator

Hazel Damiral
Clerk to Boroughn Green Parish Council
Lullingstone
Paddock Close
St Mary's Platt, Kent
TN15 8NN

CHAIRMAN
Dr Alun Griffiths
'Highdown', Hatch Lane
Chartham, Kent CT4 7LN
Tel: 01227 730126

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Mr Paul Smallwood
The Old Rectory, Stanford
Nr Ashford, Kent TN25 6DL
Tel: 01303 813198

TREASURER
Mr James Wilkinson
Moat Farmhouse, Moat Lane
Ash, Kent CT3 2DG
Tel: 01304 812670

ADMINISTRATOR
Mrs Carol Wilkinson
Moat Farmhouse, Moat Lane
Ash, Kent CT3 2DG
Tel: 01304 812260

<http://www.kentmenofthetrees.co.uk>

Borough Green . Trees in the village completion report. 2014

I judged the village with Cllr. Mike Taylor, chair of the Parish Council from 10.30 – 12.00 noon 28th Aug. on a dry day with sunny periods.

Private Trees.

Borough Green has a good selection of trees in private gardens including a spectacularly large Black Walnut in Maidstone Road and mixed with public trees to the west of the recreation ground including some limes and a curiously shaped Scots Pine. Basted House trees impressed as they did Mary Lambert last year.

Public Trees.

Recreation boundary trees are for the most part in good health, the exception being a Horse Chestnut with dead branches and premature autumn tints. The young trees by the Play Area are doing well. The Bourne Stream Woodland Walk with its well -maintained footpaths is lovely, Basted Mill has the valley sides clothed by natural regeneration trees with rides cut through at intervals and Alders and Willows flourishing round the lake. The unhappy Mafeking Oak might be saved by the planned expansion of the permeable area at its base to ease the constriction on its roots. Potters Mede recreational area has benefitted from the recent drainage scheme. The entrance trees look well. I enjoyed the woodland walk through the valuable resource of noteworthy Oak standards. Skate Park looks good with the group of crown raised Hornbeams at its entrance. Hazelbourne building development by Hanson is taking place in Isles Quarry West shielded by some of its retained marginal woodland . Meanwhile Isles Quarry East continues to be a Community Green space managed by the Parish council. The land filled area has indigenous trees ,self sown and well established There is an imaginative scheme to develop the central area as a wild flower meadow area, where Orchids have already made their presence felt . It is planned to join up the wildlife areas with corridors to help their viability long term.

Care of trees

Basted House have made a good job of removing the suckers from the bases of the Limes in the avenue. The Recreation Ground Horse chestnut may need removal. Continue to remove Ivy from the trunks of trees where it is becoming too dominant in the Woodland walk. In its earlier stages it benefits wildlife without compromising the health of its support. Good surgery was seen on the Willow at the entrance to Potters Mede, and a dead Hornbeam had been removed from Skate park. A Willow, overgrowing a private garden onto the street was scheduled for containment.

Young Trees

I did not note any new plantings under 5 years old. Clearly there is natural regeneration in the wilder areas, where a look out has to be kept for "weed" species like Sycamore. There is space to complete the replanting of trees lost to vandalism in the line by the Play Ground. Involvement of the school might reduce the risk. The Basted House estate might be encouraged to interplant their noteworthy specimens as young trees need 10 -20 years to make an impact. This Autumn would be a good

time to plant in the triangular areas at either end of Potters Mede. Cricket Bat Willows would make an immediate impact as long as they do not come within a chain (22 yds) of the drainage scheme. Wrights of Essex would supply suitable sets which in due time could be harvested for cricket bats. The proposed war memorial site lends itself to the planting of one or more Fastigate Oaks.

Special Effects.

Councillor Mike Taylor is enthusiastic, knowledgeable, hardworking and experienced and it was a pleasure to be shown round by him. The reclamation of landfill sites for amenity and development are scenic and imaginative. The area is well endowed with trees. It would be good to see a leaf taken from the book of natural regeneration of the local woodland and applied to new planting in private and public places.

Alan Smith