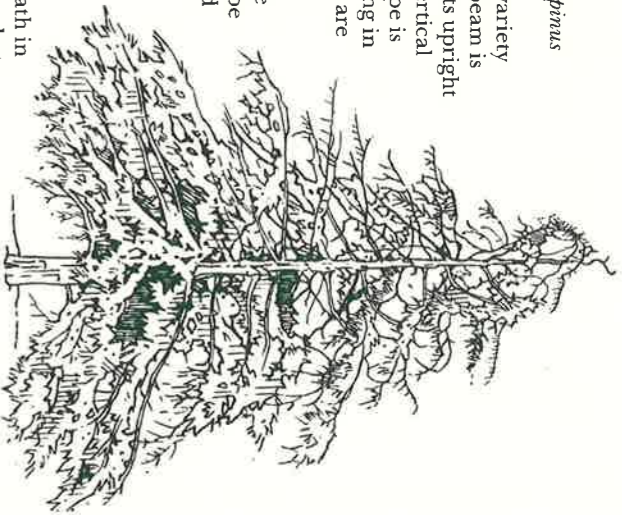


#### 6 FASTIGIATE

##### HORNBEAM *Carpinus betulus 'fastigiata'*

The cultivated variety of common hornbeam is distinguished by its upright crown of nearly vertical branches, the shape is particularly striking in winter. The leaves are toothed and have conspicuous parallel veins. The male catkins can be seen in March and female flowers emerge at the tips of the young shoots. This variety of hornbeam was chosen to line a path in Cumberland Green, but when still quite young they were removed and transplanted to other parts of the park. As it matures the trunk will have a fluted appearance. The English name refers to the hardness of the wood 'horn' meaning hard and 'beam' is tree in Old English.



Deodar

#### 9 DEODAR *Cedrus deodara*

The drooping branches and the long, soft needles distinguish this tree from other cedars: very often the leading shoot droops right over. It was introduced to Britain in 1831 from the Himalayas and although it can grow to over 100 feet. The wood of the Deodar is fragrant. In summer the branches are usually covered in small green cones which turn brown and ripen the following autumn.

#### 10. LUCOMBE OAK *Quercus x hispanica 'Lucombeana'*

This variety is named after Mr Lucombe, a nursery man from Exeter who, in the 1760s, noticed that two of his oaks, a Turkey oak

and a cork oak, had grown

together and produced a tree which kept its leaves through the winter. He felled one of them for boards for his own coffin; the boards were kept under his bed until he died aged 102. The leaves are elliptical with short pointed lobes; they are shiny green above and downy grey underneath. The acorns grow on a short stalk singly or in pairs; in the first year the acorn is small and rather scaly; it opens at the end of the second year and has a 'mossy' cup covering half of it like the Turkey Oak; the bark is corky like its other parent.

#### MAPLES

There are groups of three species of ornamental maple in the north east corner of the English Gardens, the shape of the leaves and keys is different in each. The leaves are opposite on the stalks of all maples.



Cappadocian Maple

#### 11 NORWAY MAPLE *Acer platanoides 'Drummondii'*

The very striking leaves of these trees have five lobes ending in several pointed teeth and a broad, creamy coloured margin turning to white. The wings of the keys are almost horizontal. It is native to Europe from Norway southwards but not to Britain. Squirrels strip off the bark of young trees for the sweet sap underneath.

#### 13 CAPPADOCIAN MAPLE *Acer cappadocicum*

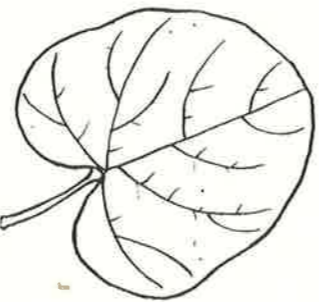
The name of this tree is derived from an ancient region of Asia Minor now part of Turkey; it was introduced to this country over a century ago. The leaves are broad with five or seven long, slender lobes each with a very pointed tip; they turn buttery yellow in the autumn. The wings of the green keys are widely spread. As the leaves come out in May sprays of yellow flowers open.

pollinated by a gallwasp; the female makes a tiny hole in the tip and crawls in to lay eggs; cultivated figs sometimes fruit without pollination. The fruits remain hard and green and only ripen in their second year on the tree, but they do not often ripen in this country.

#### 21 INDIAN BEAN TREE

##### *Catalpa bignonioides*

There are several of these spectacular trees in the Park but the position of this one, standing alone in a lawn, shows off the huge, bright green leaves, the eight inch spikes of pale flowers which open June when hardly any other blossom is out and the long, slender beans which hang down from the branches through the winter. The tree stands there bare, its well-shaped broad crown of thick twigs and long pods hanging down, until well after the chestnuts have finished flowering and suddenly the leaves unfurl in late June followed by the candles of white flowers flecked with red and purple. The tree is native to southern USA its Latin name is a corruption of Catawba which is the name of the Red Indian tribe in the area where it was first found; it was cultivated in this country in the 18th century.



Judas Tree

#### 22 JUDAS TREE

##### *Cercis siliquastrum*

The common name arises from the legend that this was the tree on which Judas Iscariot hanged himself; the small flowers that appear on the bare branches and sometimes on the trunk, are said to represent Christ's tears and their deep pink colour a blush of shame for Judas' betrayal. The scientific name comes from the Greek word for a weaver's shuttle supposedly the shape of the pod which ripens from green to red to purple in the autumn; after it has split open and released the seeds, it often remains on the tree all winter. This a small tree and the trunk often leans over so the crown is off centre. The buds in winter are red. It is a native to southern Europe.

#### 23 WEEPING HAZEL

##### *Corylus avellana 'Pendula'*

This small specimen tree has long drooping branches and suits its position at an intersection of paths. Like the common hazel it has rounded leaves with a pointed tip, toothed edges and silvery down

#### 12 RED SNAKE BARK

##### MAPLE *Acer capillipes*

The distinctive green and silver striped bark and its bright red leaf stalks give the tree its names. The leaves turn dark red in autumn and are narrower than most maples with a long central lobe and two small side lobes, each ending in a slender point. The keys have wide apart wings and ripen to a pinky red. The tree is native to Japan.

underneath. Early in the year the yellow male catkins grow to about two inches long, the female flowers are tiny with red tassels at the tip. The nuts grow in clusters each covered in green bracts; squirrels are very attracted to them.

#### 24 BLACK MULBERRY

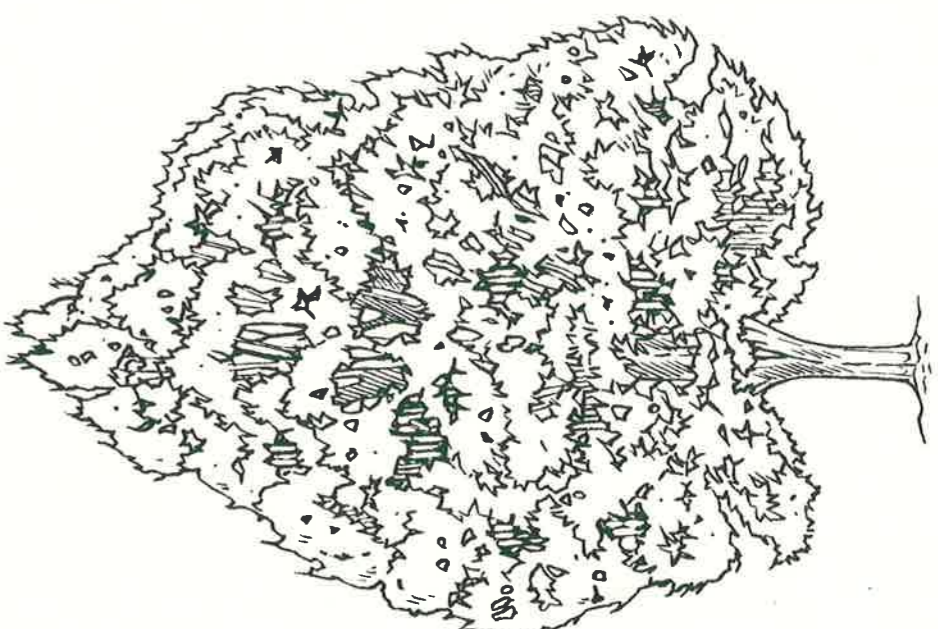
##### *Morus nigra*

One of several in the Park, the others are in Queen Mary's Gardens, one on the Nannies lawn and the other in the lakeside area and marked on the map over. These are not the variety used to feed silkworms, which is the White Mulberry with pinky-white fruit.

The Black mulberry has raspberry-like fruit which often are up to an inch long and ripen in late summer from bright red to almost black. The trunk often grows crooked and looks gnarled and ancient even when young. The branches spread sideways and the tree can be wider than it is tall. The leaves are about four inches across and six long, heart shaped at the base and pointed at the tip. Black mulberry trees have been grown in this country since 1550 and are native to the Far East.

## Avenue Gardens

The Italianate Garden, designed by William Andrews Nesfield was opened in 1864. The complex bedding schemes with ornamental tazzas and vases, were bordered by the outer rows of existing wych elms and by the inner rows of horse chestnut along the Broad Walk. In the 1990s the gardens were restored with the planting, paths and ornaments being renewed following closely the original Nesfield design. The row of trees of mixed species and elm stumps were removed from the paddock area on the west side and the row of the Ginkgos to the east and both rows were replaced with 100 Tulip Trees, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, then 10 - 18 feet tall. (See *Toxophilite Ground section for description*). The small columnar cypresses which make the side avenues look so Italian are *Cupressus sempervirens* pyramidalis. Limes replaced the horse chestnuts lining the Broadwalk; *Tilia cordata* 'Green spiral' was selected because it is quick growing, has a pyramidal form even when young and the crown can grow up to 20 feet wide. The leaves turn a lovely pale yellow in the autumn.



Silver Maggie Drawing by Ann Müller Text by Maggie Müller

Regent's Park  
the magnificent  
& peaceful  
plantations

This leaflet has been produced to help visitors to appreciate some of the special trees in the Regent's Park. Much of the general information has come from *Trees in Britain* by Roger Phillips, published by Pan Books, 1978 and *Field Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of Britain*, Readers Digest, 1981; both of these are useful for identification of common and ornamental trees. The Regent's Park archives, particularly the 1981 tree survey of Regent's Park, and personal, local knowledge have provided the means to identify the areas and trees of interest.

## The Friends of Regent's Park & Primrose Hill

The society is a non-political body. Our aims are to help conserve, defend and, where necessary, urge the improvement of all the area within the Park boundary and the adjoining Primrose Hill.

Application forms for membership are available from:  
The Royal Parks Office, The Storeyard,  
Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NR

# The English Gardens

When Markham Nesfield had finished creating the Italianate garden designed by his father, William, he was commissioned to lay out the eastern portion of the site in an informal style. Some of the trees in the present garden survive from the original planning and many more have been added in the last two decades.

## 1 ENGLISH YEW

*Taxus baccata*

Both these yews are in shrubberies. The foliage consists of flat sprays of narrow, straight, flattened needles on either side of a shoot. The fruit is a single seed surrounded by a fleshy container called an aril; this is green at first ripening to bright red. The wood of the yew is close grained and was used to make long bows

for war in the middle ages and for sport until well into the twentieth century.

The more columnar upright tree, often seen in churchyards, is the Irish Yew.

## 2 HOLM OR HOLLYOAK

*Quercus ilex*

Tall and evergreen this tree has a dark, dense appearance and is a native to the Mediterranean

region. The spiky edge of the young leaves are like holly and give the tree its Latin name *ilex*. These young leaves have become both sides but later become dark, glossy green on the upper surface and are rather leathery; they appear in June with the yellow catkins of male flowers, and the inconspicuous female flowers, are borne on the same tree. The acorns are small, about 3/4 inch long



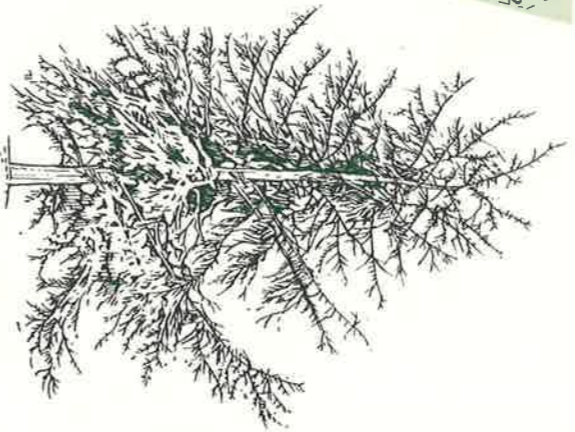
English Yew

and pointed with the scaly cup covering about one third.

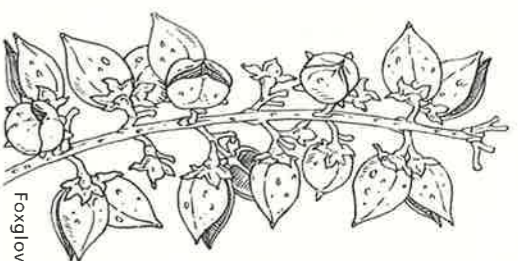
## 3 BLUE ATLAS CEDAR

*Cedrus atlantica 'glauca'*

The 'glauca' variety of cedar has blue grey foliage; on new shoots the needles grow singly and the next year form rosettes on the old growth. The branches turn up at the ends giving it its distinguishing shape. The fruit are barrel shaped, upright cones often staying on the tree for two or three years and then disintegrating leaving a central spike. It is a hardy tree and although native to the Atlas Mountains of Algeria and Morocco, it tolerates atmospheric pollution and is often planted in parks and town gardens, although it can grow to 120 feet.



Blue Cedar



Foxglove Tree

## 4 FOXGLOVE TREE

*Paulownia tomentosa*

The purple flowers give this tree its English name being shaped like a foxglove flower; each one is nearly two inches long and about eleven of them grow on an upright spike which is formed in the autumn but the flowers do not open until the next May before the leaves appear; over wintering does make them susceptible to spring frost, although this particular tree usually has a wonderful display and as the flowers fall there is carpet of purple underneath. When the fruits form they are green and oval coming to a point; they open to release winged seeds and the cases stay on the spike which too stays on the tree for most of the winter. The leaves are large with three shallow lobes. There are some small Paulownia growing on the mound opposite this tree; they are pruned back hard each year



Hornbeam

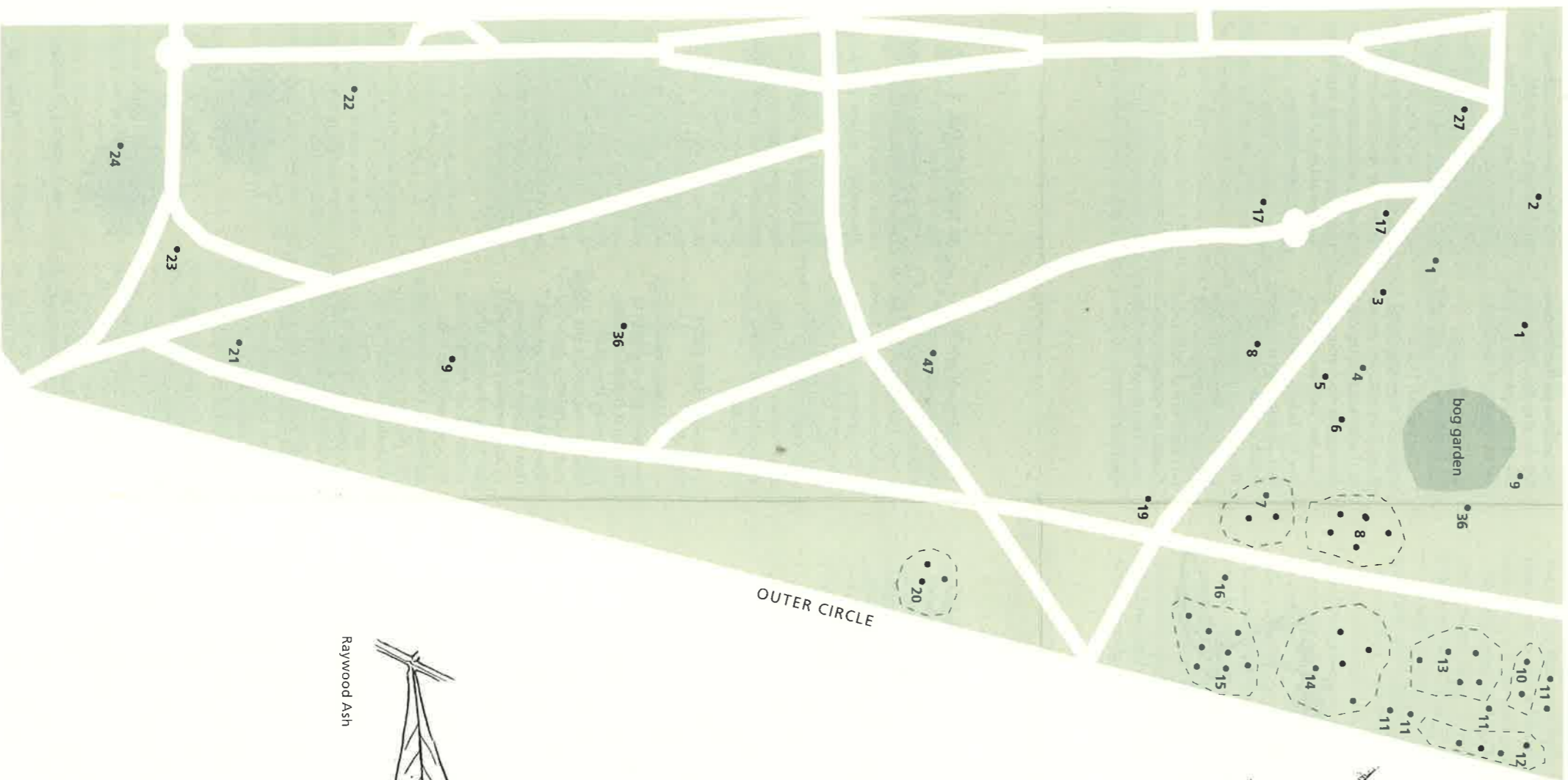
## 19 SWEET GUM

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

In the 16th century a naturalist called Hernandez was sent by Philip II of Spain to Mexico; there he found a tree he called 'liquid amber' because of colour and texture of the gum produced from the trunk. In USA they are still grown for the gum which is used in adhesives, perfumes and incense. Introduced to Britain in 1681 as an ornamental tree; it is deciduous with a conical crown. Unlike the maples the leaves are alternate on the branch rather than opposite. They have pointed lobes, usually five but occasionally seven, with the central lobe being longer than the others; in autumn they colour purple, deep red and orange. The colouring of the group of Liquidambar on the lawn opposite the Rose Garden Café in Queen Mary's gardens is particularly spectacular.

## 20 FIG *Ficus carica*

The three trees have grown together with trunks and foliage entwined and one is almost horizontal. The fig is native to west Asia and the Mediterranean but has been cultivated in Britain since the 16th century mainly for the foliage. The leaves are thick and leathery with three or five lobes and can be up to 12 inches long. The rubber plant has very similar leaves and is a related species of house plant. The flower is



OUTER CIRCLE

OUTER CIRCLE



Raywood Ash

## 16 RAYWOOD ASH

*Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood'*

This is a pretty, more delicate-looking tree than a common ash of which there is a specimen in the corner nearby. The leaves are shorter with fewer leaflets which are more pointed and more sharply toothed and have white hairs along the ribs underneath. There are many Raywood ashes throughout the Park.

## 17 TREE OF HEAVEN

*Ailanthus altissima*

Introduced to England from China in the 1750s

# History of trees in the Regent's Park

Trees have always been important in the landscape of the tract of land which is now known as the Regent's Park.

## Origins

The Middlesex Forest, 'a great forest of wooded glades', covered the area until it was deforested in the 13th century. King Henry VIII found Marylebone Park, with its forest of fine trees, was ideal for a Royal Hunting Ground. In 1649 a survey for Oliver Cromwell recorded Marylebone Park as '534 acres with 124 deer and 16,297 trees of oak, ash, elm, white thorn and maple'; Cromwell sold off the land but kept 3000 trees to use to construct ships for the navy.

## John Nash's Ideas

Early in the 19th century John Nash was commissioned to reorder the area into a park with a summer palace for the Prince Regent and with individual villas each one surrounded by trees screening it from its neighbours. He wanted to produce an effect of open parkland bordered by plantations of trees with the occasional clump of trees planted to frame views of the ornamental water and the villas and 'to avoid spottiness and to give repose and breadth (speaking as a painter) to an expanse of turf'.

Nash wrote about the planting around the houses 'Two colours in each mass I think will be sufficient for the purpose of harmony and pacing'. The two species chosen differed in the various areas and included birch and plane, sycamore and oak, larch and Spanish chestnut, ash and beech. One of each pair was fast-growing to produce the appearance of a mass of vegetation quickly and the other slow growing but longer living.

## Public resistance to change

By the 1860s the horse chestnuts planted in the more formal area south of the long walk seemed to be doing badly and both Dr Lindley and William Andrews Nesfield suggested that they be removed but feared public criticism. However they must have revived because by the 1870s the avenue of horse chestnuts in Nesfield's redesigned Italian garden (now the restored Avenue Gardens) was said to be the finest in or near London. One hundred years later the

Tree Committee recommended the replacement of the horse chestnut avenue because of their uneven growth, half to be removed immediately and the remainder over five years. This proposal met with outraged opposition by local residents and The Regent's Park Tree Preservation Society. There was also public comment in the national press against the proposals. In 1977 it was decided to replace them over three years but with red horse chestnuts. However, when the Avenue Gardens were being restored to their historic origins in the 1990s these young chestnuts were replaced with limes.

## Recent Changes

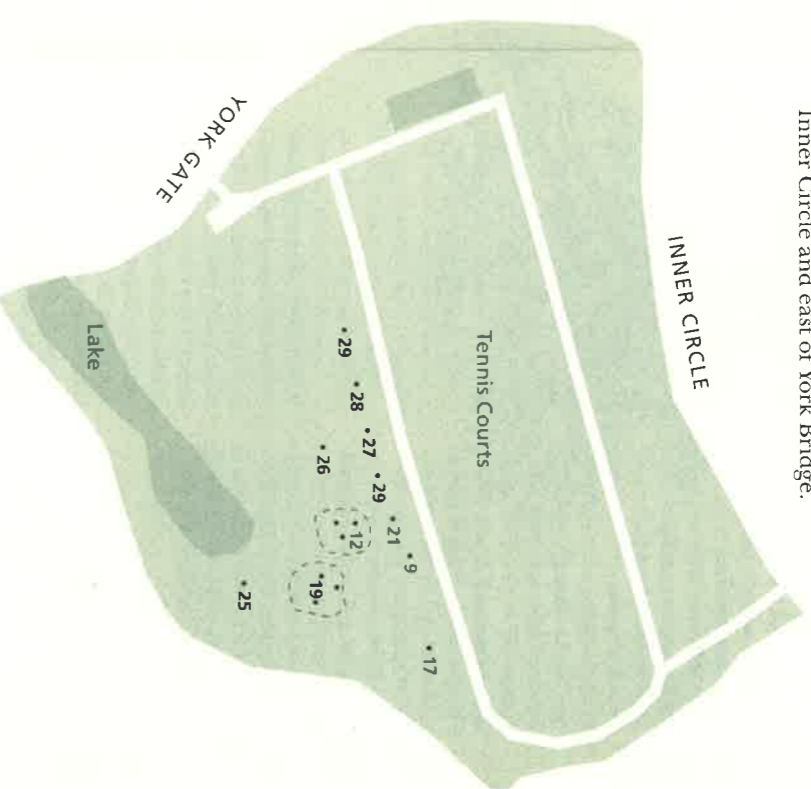
During the last three decades of the twentieth century there has been a large number of new trees and replacement trees: 541 were felled between 1972-8 and 2211 replanted. In 1972 twelve large elms in the north part of the Broadwalk had to be felled because of Dutch Elm disease. These trees were replaced with Norway maple, silver maple, Caucasian ash, oak and lime. On Cumberland Green a small plantation of Japanese Elms, thought to be resistant to Dutch elm disease, were presented by a Japanese firm to celebrate their centenary. In 1976 the Chester Road cherry trees, which had been donated in 1932 by Sigmund Goetze, were replaced by rows of Japanese cherries *Prunus 'Kanzani'*. In the 1990s when the Avenue Gardens were being restored, as well as the new lime trees, a row of Ginkgo were removed, replanted in other parts of the park and replaced with tulip trees.

In 1987, after the big October storm, 192 trees were either blown down or had to be taken down later; the Prince of Wales' Royal Park Appeal was set up to provide replacement trees. In 2002, ten trees were uprooted by gales and many damaged. After the drought of 2003 over 80 trees died, mostly mature ornamental cherries.

An ornamental maple avenue was planted across Gloucester Green as well as an avenue of upright hornbeam across Cumberland Green, although this was removed in 1989 and the trees replanted in various places in the Park. A fenced-in plantation of mixed trees, chosen to attract wildlife, was planted south of the sports pitches; at the beginning of the 21st century, with the reorganisation of the pitches, another plantation by the lake side is being established to form a birch glade. The area along the edge of the west side of the park from the Bird breeding area to the Athletics track will become an autumn colour trail.

# The Toxophilite Grounds

This small area of Regent's Park has a concentration of interesting specimen trees. From 1832 until 1922 the Royal Toxophilite Society, a private archery club, leased part of the enclosure south of the Inner Circle and east of York Bridge.



**25 RED OAK (*Quercus rubra*)**  
(synonym *Q. borealis*)  
This deciduous tree is the best growing oak species introduced from N. America to Europe. The deeply lobed leaves are much broader than the common oak and can grow up to nine inches; the whole crown turns dark red in the autumn. The flowers come out in May, the males are yellow catkins and the females are red, inconspicuous and grow in the axils of the new leaves. The acorns take two years to mature and are barrel-shaped, up to ½ inch long in saucer-like, scaly cups. This specimen has done well in a position where it can spread without much competition.

supported by the slender trunk. The leaves and flowers are similar to the Common Ash.

**35 ITALIAN ALDER**  
*Alnus cordata*  
This young tree by the lake is of a species which has very glossy dark green leaves longer than other alders; they are pointed and hang on long thin stalks. The cone, at about one inch, is longer than the other species. The piles supporting Venice are made of alder, probably of this species which is native to northern Italy and grows taller than others.

to Chester Road

# The Lakeside Area of Queen Mary's Garden

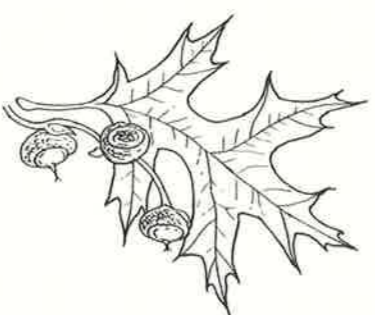
From 1838 to 1932 the land inside Inner Circle was leased to the Royal Botanic Society. Few of the trees planted then have survived, except the weeping ash.

## 30 SERBIAN SPRUCE

*Picea omorika*  
This variety of Spruce appears to have been common throughout Europe until the Ice Age. Afterwards it only survived in a small part of the former Yugoslavia and not noticed until 1875; it was introduced to Britain in 1889. Its spine-like appearance with branches right down to the ground makes it a good ornamental tree particularly when planted in groups such as these three near the Rose Wheel. The needles are unusually flattened rather than four sided. The male and female fruits are red at first in May and then turn yellow. The cones are scaly, taper to a point and are blue green when young and then turn reddish brown.

## OAKS

Most species of oak are deciduous but there are evergreen and semi evergreen oaks. The most important common feature is the acorn developing from a female catkin either singly or in groups; some acorns mature over two years. The male and female flowers develop separately but on the same tree, the male is a slender catkin.



Pin Oak

## 31 PIN OAK *Quercus palustris*

This deciduous tree is native to eastern USA where it often grows on marshy ground, hence the scientific name *palustris* which means marshy. The common name comes from the short twigs in winter which are said to have a pin like appearance. The leaves are deeply lobed with long points; they can be up to six inches long. They are glossy green on both sides, and in the autumn turn brilliant red starting at the tip of the shoots and then spreading to the rest of the leaves on the branch. The acorns mature after two years and are tiny at first growing to

only about ½ inch long and are rather squat, almost round and sit in a thin-shelled, saucer-like cup. The acorn tastes bitter because of the tannin it contains and is not palatable to squirrels.

## 32 ENGLISH OAK *Quercus robur*

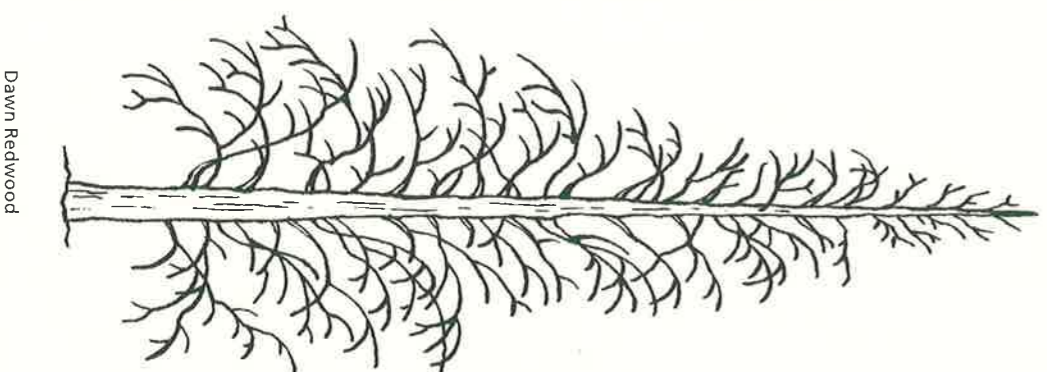
This a young specimen of one of the native English oaks which have been known to survive for 800 years. It flowers in May with the female flowers growing at the end of the bunches of young leaves. The acorns grow on stalks, usually in groups and have rough scaly cups. The leaves have only very short stalks and four or five rounded lobes on each side with what are usually described as two 'ears' at the base.

## 33 DAWN REDWOOD

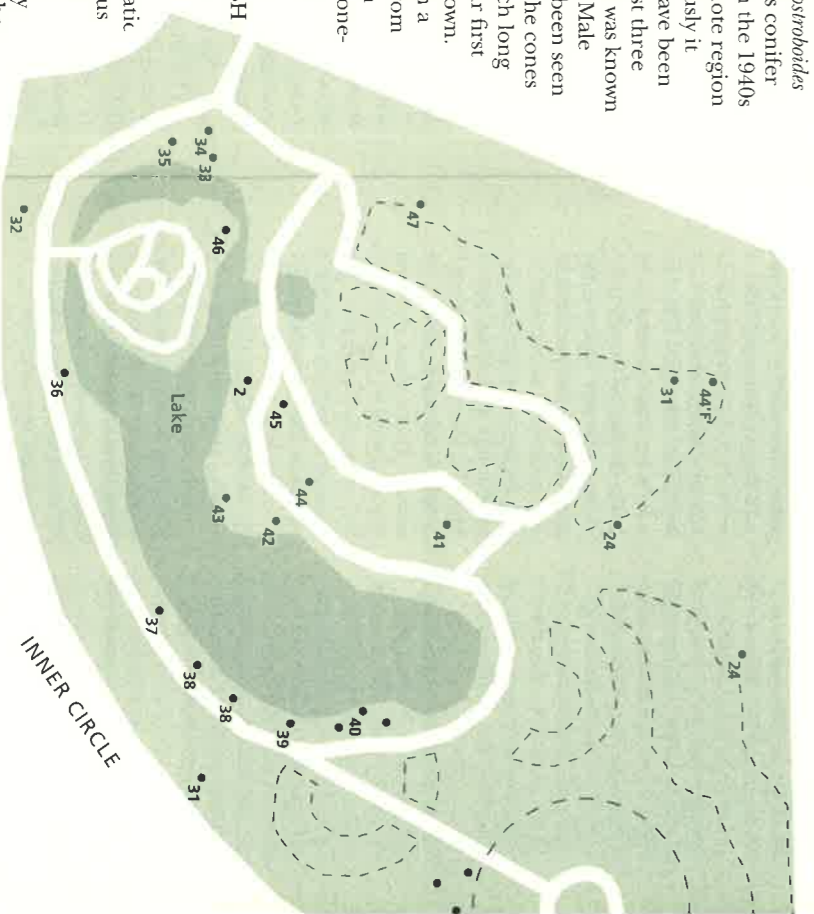
*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*  
This deciduous conifer was discovered in the 1940s growing in a remote region of China; previously it was thought to have been extinct for at least three million years and was known only from fossils. Male flowers have not been seen in this country. The cones are up to one inch long and ripen in their first year to a dark brown. The needles turn a reddish brown from the tips and then unusually for a cone-bearing tree, fall in autumn.

## 34 WEEPING ASH *Fraxinus excelsior pendula*

This tall tree looks very dramatic with its pendulous branches falling from the top looking as if they are too heavy to be



Dawn Redwood





## 26 STINKING ASH

*Ptelea trifoliata*

The common name of this ash arises because of the unpleasant smell of the leaves when crushed; there are three leaflets hence the generic name. The flowers are white and open in June and grow in clusters about 2 inches across; the fruits are round discs up to 1 inch long and ripen to a pale yellow. It is a deciduous tree which only grows to about 25 feet and is native to southern Canada and eastern USA. This specimen has looked to be about to die for at least the last thirty years, but although almost split into two it continues to produce leaves, flowers and fruit each year.

## 27 TULIP TREE

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

This is a deciduous tree with striking leaves which have a flattened top and four lobes (usually leaves have an uneven number of lobes or leaflets). Each leaf is borne on a long stalk

gardeners to Charles I, introduced the tree to Britain from Virginia where, in the wild, the tree grows up to 150 feet. The North American Indians used to call it 'canoe wood' because they were able to hollow out a trunk into a canoe big enough to carry about 20 people. This mature tree lost a very large branch during the storm of 1987 but has recovered well.

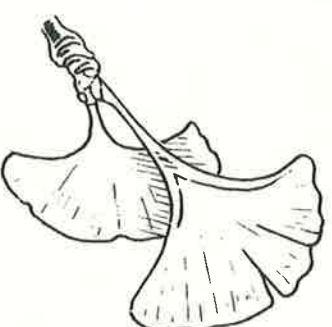
## 28 MAIDENHAIR TREE

*Ginkgo biloba*

This deciduous tree can grow to 200 feet, but in The Regent's Park the specimens are quite young and their rather narrow, spindly appearance is characteristic. The unusual fan-shaped leaves give the tree its common name; they are partly divided in the middle and have parallel veins and are

similar to the maidenhair fern. The generic name is derived from the Chinese 'yin kuo' which means 'silver fruit' which the tree sometimes bears and 'biloba' refers to the two lobes. The Maidenhair tree is part of a family that was widespread in pre history - fossilised trees with similar leaves have been found and are thought to have been formed more than 200 million years ago. The tree probably survived down the centuries

because it was cultivated in temples and gardens in China where it is native in a remote eastern area. It was introduced to Europe in the early 18th century. It does well as a street tree even in a polluted area such as the Oxford Street end of Gloucester Place in central London, but generally only male trees are planted as



Maidenhair Tree

the rotting flesh of the female smells foul and becomes slimy when it falls and could be a hazard to pedestrians and traffic. In Japan the fruit, when still hard, is roasted and used as a hangover cure. A long row of Ginkgos was replaced by Tulip trees during the restoration of the Avenue Gardens in the 1990s and the specimens replanted in various parts of the Park.

## 29 INDIAN HORSE

CHESTNUT *Aesculus indica*

The Indian Horse Chestnut, introduced to Britain in 1851 is a native of the Himalayas. It is a deciduous tree with a tall, rounded outline and can reach a height of about 65 feet. Flowers open in June, which is about six weeks after the Common Horse Chestnut. Bees value this because there are usually no other insect pollinated flowers in bloom at this time. The flowers are white tinged with pink, red or



Tulip Tree

leading to the island in the lake, is described in the 1981 tree survey of Regent's Park as 'Salix species' which means the species is not known. The willow is the last tree to shed its leaves at the end of the year and the first to sprout them at the beginning; which makes them vulnerable to autumn and spring storms. The two weeping willows in the English Garden both lost large branches in the gales of October 2002.

## 36 GOLDEN WEEPING

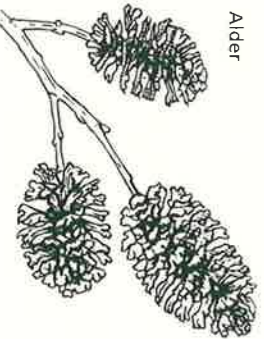
WILLOW *Salix x chrysocoma*

The pendulous, bright yellow branches and twigs which reach nearly to the ground give this tree its common name. The upper surface of the leaves is matt green and the underneath bluish-green; both sides have some silky hairs. This species is a hybrid between *Salix alba*, the white willow and *Salix babylonica*, the Chinese Weeping Willow depicted in willow-pattern china.

## 37 WILLOW LEAVED

PEAR *Pyrus salicifolia*

*pendula*  
This tree is very striking because of its branches hanging right down to the ground and its silver grey leaves. The flowers are cream with pink anthers and five petals similar to



Alder

## 39 EUROPEAN ALDER

*Alnus incana*

This is a golden variety of alder and has leaves and

fruits that differ from the Common Alder. Pointed, toothed leaves are covered in grey hairs and the cones are longer. Like the Common Alder its nitrogen-fixing ability makes it ideal for planting on land reclamation sites to improve and stabilise the soil.

## 38 SWAMP CYPRESS

*Taxodium distichum*

This deciduous conifer is native to swamps of south eastern USA. These two specimens have many 'knees' or air roots called pneumatophores poking up on the bank of the lake; they help the tree to breathe when the soil is waterlogged and lacks oxygen. Like the Dawn Redwood it is unusual in bearing cones yet shedding its leaves in autumn. The bark is reddish brown and the trunk is fluted at the base. The male flowers form yellow catkins in the spring, and the green female flowers which are like little conelike cones are one inch long and are green turning to purple before the seeds are released.

## 40 JACQUEMONT'S

BIRCH *Betula ultilis jacquemontii*

These three trees by the lake are conspicuous with their white bark which extends into the branches. The variety shares characteristics of the silver birch having a graceful, pendulous form and long catkins which open in April. The leaves are broader than most birches. In the Himalayas the bark is used for making paper

## 41 PURPLE BEECH

*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*

The *Purpurea* variety has dark purple leaves and both the flowers and the fruit are pinkish brown. Like the common variety the leaves of this beech are alternate and the edge is rather wavy. The outer husk of the fruit splits into four revealing two triangular nuts.

## 42 PAPER BARK MAPLE

*Acer griseum*

This small, ornamental deciduous tree is named because the bark peels off the trunk and branches right through the year in thin papery strips and thus reveals the young bark underneath which is a lovely

coppery red colour. Unlike most maples the leaves have three leaflets, the middle one on a stalk; they change colour through the seasons being bronze or pink in spring, turning green in the summer and then crimson or orange in the autumn. The yellow flowers, which hang in groups on the twigs, come out in late May. The fruit have wings which are almost parallel.

This species of maple is native to China and was brought to Britain in 1901 by E. H. Wilson.

## 43 WHITE WILLOW

*Salix alba*

This was a tall tree with long drooping branches of silvery white leaves which looked very striking across the lake. Unfortunately, after a freak storm in 2004 the top and some branches had to be lopped. The nearly upright catkins, yellow male and green female, open in late April and the female splits in June when ripe and scatters fluffy white seeds.

## 44 FALSE ACACIA

*Robinia pseudacacia*

The leaves of this deciduous tree are about eight inches long and have up to fifteen leaflets, sometimes, on stalks and are arranged alternately; they are oval, bluish green underneath and have a small spine at the tip of each. The pea-like flowers hang in clusters 4 - 8 inches long and open in June; they have a sweet scent.

yellow, turning darker as they age; they are produced in pyramid shaped spikes which can be up to 12 inches high. The fruit forms on a stout stalk and is rather pear shaped with a greenish brown scaly skin, unlike the round, spiny Common Horse Chestnut and there may be two or three glossy dark brown nuts inside. The leaves are like other Chestnuts in having five or seven leaflets but each has a short stalk joining it to the leaf stalk. The leaflets are edged with fine teeth and have a point at the tip. There are several trees of this species in other areas of the park, but these two trees are probably the finest-looking specimens.

## 47 TURKEY OAK

*Quercus cerris*

This deciduous tree was introduced from Turkey in the second half of the nineteenth century and is quicker growing than native English oaks, it can grow to 130 feet. The leaves are dark green, shiny on top and rough underneath, have deeply cut lobes and can be up to five inches long; they stay on the tree until late autumn, sometimes young leaves wither and turn brown but remain on the tree throughout the winter. The cup of the fruit is unusual, it is often described as 'mossy' and covers the acorn in its first year and comes about half way up the mature acorn.

## 46 TABLE DOGWOOD

*Cornus controversa*

This small tree that looks so dramatic from the bridge is native to Japan. It is not only the variegated, oval leaves that make it so distinctive but the branches growing in layers which give it the common name.



Turkey Oak