



Native British Trees and Their Traditional Uses Found at

Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve and surrounding area.



By Keith Rawlings.

We are blessed in Britain with some wonderful countryside that is full of magnificent trees- planted by man and scattered by nature.

Some of the more common trees at Churchtown together with their traditional uses, are shown below

Alder Buckthorn	butchers' skewers, manufacture of gunpowder, green dye from fruits, other colours from bark and laxatives from the bark.
Alder Common	clogs, broom handles, charcoal for gunpowder, red dye from bark, tanning-agent and fencing.
Ash	oars/paddles, tool shafts and handles, walking sticks, cart and carriage wheels, and arrow shafts.
Blackthorn	walking sticks, rake teeth, the fruit (sloes) eaten and used in Sloe Gin
Crab Apple	fruit jelly
Cultivated Apple	fruit, cog wheels
Damson	fruit
Dogwood	skewers, pegs, arrow-shafts, bobbins, lamp-oil from berries
Elder	wooden spoons and toys, bark & flowers in herbalism, dyes.
Oak	furniture, ship building, tannin from bark, acorns for pig fodder, yokes, five-bar gates, roof frames in churches and other buildings.
Hazel	hurdles, basketry, crate hoops, walking sticks, building material (wattle & daub), faggots to light fires, nuts.
Holly	woodcut blocks, 'Swingle' of Flail Christmas decorations
Hornbeam	mallet head, yokes, wheel spokes, cogwheels logs burning the longest with the brightest flames, useful for working by the fireside requiring extra light.
Medlar	Fruit (jelly & preserves)
Rowan	Anciently regarded as the tree of life, believed to have magical and protective qualities i.e., used in houses as door lintels, walking sticks to ward off attackers, tool handles, wood taken on ships to ensure safety.
Sycamore	Musical instruments, household utensils.
Wild Cherry	tobacco pipes, furniture.
Wych Elm	boat making, water pipes, chair seats, wooden wheel hubs.