



Visit GRAVESEND

Make the most of your visit to Gravesend by dropping into the Visitor Information Centre – at the rear of St George's Shopping Centre, close to St George's Church and the statue of Pocahontas.

18a St George's Square, Gravesend DA11 0TB

Tel: 01474 33 76 00 Tweet @visit_gravesend



The pleasant riverside gardens offer visitors a restful environment in which intriguing glimpses of the past military occupation can be seen.

Walking through the gardens, around General Gordon's statue to the south west gate, you can enter the New Tavern Fort Gardens.


caused by a V2 in 1944.

building was demolished following an explosion House in the grounds of the New Tavern Fort. The various fortifications along the Thames which included the New Tavern Fort. He lived in Fort the borough. He was appointed to upgrade the generosity and kindness to the poor people of Gordon lived and worked in Gravesend between 1865 and 1871 and during that time showed great Arnold in 1891.

former Mayor of Gravesend, George Matthew of Gravesend by a to the Corporation foreshore were given The garden and in Terracotta. statue made by which houses his from 1865-1871, and lived at Fort House General Gordon who garden, named after This is an attractive



The Gordon Gardens area has a splendid display of flowers, mature plants and trees, with paths leading around the small lake.



About Gravesend

Gravesend is located on the estuary of the River Thames, in the county of Kent, approximately 18 miles east of London.

Situated on one of the busiest stretches of waterway in the country, this is where ships entering the Thames take on a river pilot for the journey upstream. It is a thriving industrial, commercial and residential centre which is renowned as the burial place of Princess Pocahontas who died here in 1617. There are some notable attractions and historic buildings in the vicinity as well as some interesting walks. For more information, see our Visit Gravesend details inside.



If you've visited the tree trail, snap some photos and share them with us! We'd love to see them.

Tag us on Instagram **@graveshambc**

Tweet us on Twitter **@graveshambc**

Share with us on **facebook.com/graveshamboroughcouncil**

You can also use the hashtag **#GraveshamTreeTrail**

This leaflet was produced as a legacy of the Kent Heritage Trees Project, a five year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund celebrating Kent's tree heritage. A significant achievement of the project was the recording of over 10,000 heritage trees – trees that are old, wide, rare or have a story to tell. Visit tcv.org.uk/kentheritagetrees to view the tree finds and map.

This is one of a series of leaflets created by volunteers to encourage people of all ages to explore the outdoors, learn about nature and heritage trees and enjoy the Kentish countryside.

The Kent Heritage Trees Project was developed and run by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), a charity that works with thousands of people across the UK, helping them to discover, improve and enjoy their local green spaces and by doing so create happier and healthier communities.

www.explorekent.org

Find out more about the continuing work of TCV and how you can become involved, visit www.tcv.org.uk

Kent Heritage Trees Project is managed by

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  **LOTTERY FUNDED**

To follow the trail on your phone, scan this QR code

TCV The Community Volunteering Charity

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Kent Heritage Trees Project

Gravesham Tree Trail

Gordon Gardens



Gravesham Tree Trail

Gordon Gardens and New Tavern Fort Gardens

1. Manna Ash *Fraxinus ornus*



A medium-sized deciduous tree growing to 15–25m tall with a trunk up to 1m diameter. It is grown as an ornamental tree in Europe, (north of its native range), for its decorative flowers.

2. Weeping Willow *Salix babylonica*



A medium to large deciduous tree with a stout trunk topped by a graceful broad-rounded crown of branches that sweep downward to the ground. It grows to 20m tall and the spread is almost as wide. It is native to China.

3. Pride of India *Koelreuteria paniculata*



Sometimes referred to as the Golden Rain tree, it was introduced in the 1760s and thrives best on free draining soils with a sunny aspect. Profuse small yellow flowers develop in late spring and these form lantern shaped fruits that turn red in the autumn. They form a rounded crown and its green leaves turn a rich yellow in the Autumn.

4. Ginkgo *Ginkgo biloba*



Also known as the Maidenhair tree, it is the

only living species in the division Ginkgophyta, all others being extinct. It is found in fossils dating back 270 million years and is native to China. The tree is widely cultivated and has various uses in traditional medicine and as a source of food.

5. Foxglove Tree *Paulonia tomentosa*



The Foxglove tree is distinctive because of its large heart-shaped leaves, which can grow to be 60cm in diameter. Its beautiful flower-spikes look like the Foxglove plant (hence its name) and bear small egg-shaped fruits.

6. Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera*



This tree has unusual shaped leaves, which smell of Eucalyptus when crushed and feed hungry caterpillars. Only trees over 10 years old will produce the tulip shaped green flowers. The cone like fruits have winged seeds, closely packed together. Flat winged tree seeds are called samaras, sometimes referred to as keys, helicopters or whirlybirds. If you find one, toss it into the air and watch it spin to the ground.

7. Swamp Cypress *Taxodium distichum*



The Swamp Cypress is a native of North America, one of the few deciduous conifers to be found in the UK and is also known as the 'bald cypress' because it sheds its deep red leaves



in winter. Its wood is water proof and very good for making furniture and wood carvings.

8. Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*



A stout tree up to 30 metres tall, with a huge domed canopy and grey-brown, fairly flaky bark. Distinctive leaves, with five or more long leaflets and large red-brown sticky buds followed by clusters of white/pink flowers that make it look like a huge candelabra. Look at a twig, see if you can see a horseshoe shaped scar, complete with nail marks, which are left by the leaf stalks. Autumn brings a spiky husk containing conkers; historically they were fed to sick horses to cure chest complaints. Peterborough hosts The World Conker Championships every year. Conker is derived from the word conquer, connected to playing the game. If you find some on the ground maybe you could play!

9. Yew - *Taxus baccata*



Bright red berries provide food for birds and small mammals, but are poisonous to cattle, horses and humans. Britain's smallest bird, the Goldcrest, builds nests in its sheltered, evergreen branches. Yews can live for thousands of years; its branches grow down into the ground, forming new stems, which then grow upwards to cover the old growth. Because of this, many cultures associate yew with everlasting life and why it is found in many sacred places. A Himalayan species is used to make chemotherapy drugs.

10. Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*



A tree belonging to the pea family, the false acacia is very tolerant of pollution and hot, dry conditions. It was one of the first American trees to

reach Europe, introduced to France in 1601, and is now widely naturalised across Europe. As the tree matures, the bark develops deep ridges and furrows and the tree forms an attractive irregular shape.

11. Common Lime *Tilia x europaea*



This is the tallest broad-leaved tree in most parts of Britain and is a natural hybrid of two native species (the Large- and Small-leaved Limes, *T. platyphyllos* and *T. cordata*), and has been widely planted since it was introduced from the continent in the 16th century. In summer, its small yellow flowers produce copious nectar and are strongly scented, attracting many pollinating bees. Look at the flower stalk. The lime-green leaves are very attractive to aphids whose copious honeydew drops onto visitors to the park.

Here are just a few of the many reasons why trees are very important in our lives:

- Trees help to clean the air by absorbing pollutants and releasing oxygen for us to breathe.
- Some species provide fruit and nuts for us to eat and others provide food for birds and wildlife.
- Tree roots will help to stop soil erosion, absorb water and help reduce flooding.
- Trees can muffle traffic noise, trap dust and provide shelter from the sun and wind.
- All over the world trees have inspired many artists, poems, songs, stories, myths and legends.
- Research shows being around trees helps us feel more relaxed.
- Both living and dead trees provide habitats (homes) also for other organisms like fungi, moss, Ivy and Mistletoe.