

The spring is a good time to identify trees by their buds. Sycamore trees have bright green buds. Paul Brockman BEM, the renowned woodland educator and conservationist has identified fifteen sycamore trees along the length of Barton Court Road. Four of them are near to each other at the Station Road end of Barton Court Road. There is a sycamore tree opposite the ash tree outside Bykanor House and four more sycamores near the cross roads and Pantiles end of Barton Court Road. There are no sycamores visible in an around the area of the Indian memorial. However, in both Barton Court Road and Barton Court Avenue there are tree stumps and evidence of where trees once were.

In conclusion the ash tree planted by the Belgian refugee outside Bykanor House has been identified. There are four sycamore trees located at either end of Barton Court Road. They have been pollarded and their life extended. They are within the right age range to have been planted in 1915. It is probable that at least three of them were planted by the Indian soldiers named in the Parish magazine. It is hoped that further research may identify which sycamore trees are linked to the Indian soldiers. These trees are living legacies to the Belgian and Indian guests who stayed in New Milton and Barton on Sea during the First World War and as such are an important part of our local heritage.

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This article was first published in the Milton Mail and Barton Bugle magazines in April 2021.

**Graham Flexman**

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**From:** Bob Lord <robertlord123@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 03 July 2022 07:55  
**To:** Joanna Hayward  
**Cc:** Mark Jeffries; Graham Flexman; Geoff Blunden  
**Subject:** FBWM - Annual Report 2021/22  
**Attachments:** Annual Report 2021-22.docx

Morning Joanna

Please find attached the Friends of Ballard Water Meadow Annual Report for 2021/22. I would be grateful if this was incorporated into the Ballard Water Meadow webpage on the Town Council's website. This will also appear on the FBWM website.

I hope to be able to do something similar annually for Barton Common, although the first report will be stretched to cover the period December 2021-March 2023.

I hope this meets with the Town Council's approval.

Bob Lord  
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# Sycamore

(*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Familiar, romantic, sticky. Sycamore might have been introduced by the Romans or in the 1500s. Since then, it's colonised woodland becoming a source of food and shelter for wildlife including aphids that leave behind their tacky honeydew.

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Sycamore has distinctive winged fruits known as samaras.  
Credit: Sylvain Cordier / naturepl.com

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## Quick facts

Common name: sycamore

Scientific name: *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Family: Sapindaceae

Origin: non-native

These broadleaf trees can grow to 35m and live for 400 years. The bark is dark pink-grey, and smooth when young, but becomes cracked and develops small plates with age. Twigs are pink-brown and hairless.

Look out for: leaf veins which are hairy on the underside.

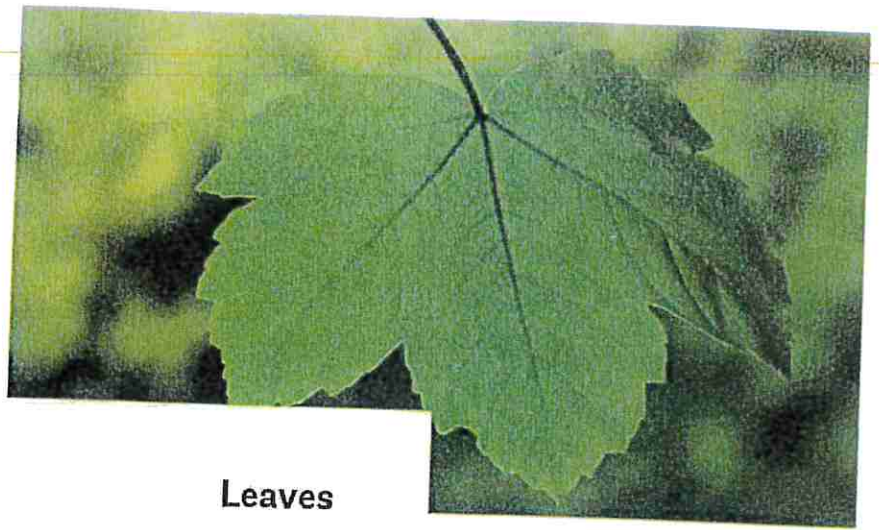
Identified in winter by: twigs which are pink-brown and have no hairs.

## What does sycamore look like?

### A year in the life of an sycamore tree

A Year In the Life of a Sycamore Tree





## Leaves

Palmate leaves measure 7-16cm and have five lobes. Leaf stalks of younger trees are characteristically red.

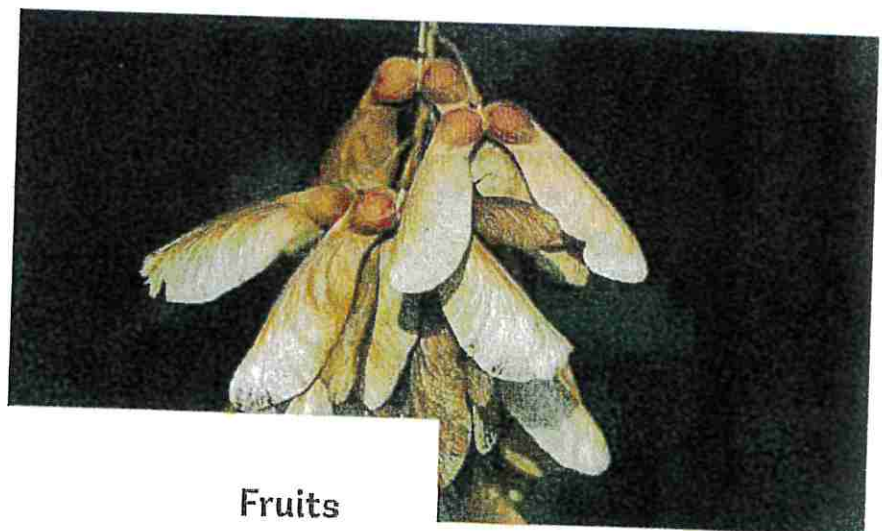
Credit: Anna Badley / WTML



Credit: Martin Fowler / Alamy Stock Photo

## Flowers

Small, green-yellow and hang in spikes, or 'racemes'.



## Fruits

After pollination by wind and insects, female flowers develop into distinctive winged fruits known as samaras.

Credit: Sylvain Cordier / naturepl.com

## Not to be confused with:

Field maple (*Acer campestre*) and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). V-shaped seeds tell sycamore apart – the angle of the seeds is narrower than the others.



Maple, field



Maple, Norway



## Spot the changing seasons

Have you noticed buds bursting into leaf or fruit ripening in the hedgerows? Tell us what's happening to the trees around you and help scientists track the effects of climate change on wildlife.

[Take part in our Nature's Calendar survey.](#)

## Where to find sycamore

Sycamore is native to central, eastern and southern Europe. It is thought to have been introduced to the UK by the Romans. However, other reports suggest it was introduced to the UK in the Tudor era around the 1500s. More widespread planting occurred in the 1700s and the earliest reports of the species naturalising in the UK date from the mid-1800s.

The seed is extremely fertile, so sycamore has spread quickly across the UK and colonised many woodlands to the detriment of native species.

## Value to wildlife

Sycamore is attractive to aphids and therefore a variety of their predators, such as ladybirds, hoverflies and birds. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of a number of moths, including the sycamore moth, plumed prominent and maple prominent. The flowers provide a good source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects, and the seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals.

Sycamore is often planted in parks and large gardens.  
Credit: David Gowans / Alamy Stock Photo

## Mythology and symbolism

In Wales, sycamore trees were used in the traditional craft of making 'love spoons', decoratively carved wooden spoons given as a romantic gesture. In some parts of the UK, the winged seeds are known as 'helicopters' and used in flying competitions and model-making by children.

## Uses of sycamore

Sycamore timber is hard and strong, pale cream and with a fine grain, and is excellent for carving. It is used to make furniture and kitchenware, such as ladles and wooden spoons as the wood does not taint or stain the food.

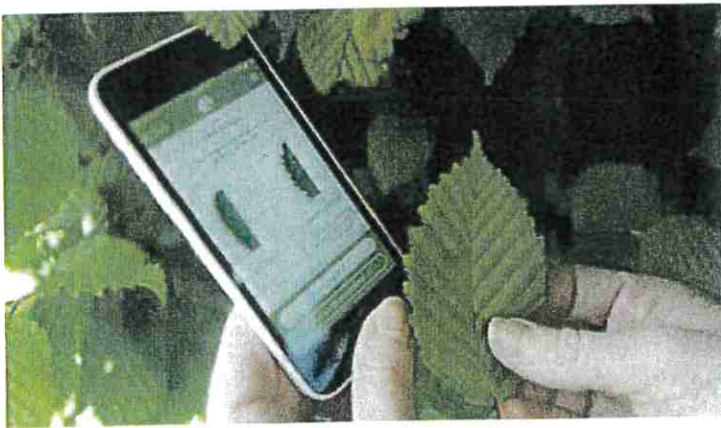
They are planted in parks and large gardens. Mature trees are extremely tolerant of wind, so are often planted in coastal and exposed areas as a wind break. They are also tolerant of pollution and are therefore ideal street trees.

The sycamore tree is a source of food and shelter for many species.

Credit: Marcus Harrison / Alamy Stock Photo

## Threats and conservation

Sycamore is susceptible to sooty bark, which can lead to wilting of the crown and death of the tree, as well as a variety of other fungal diseases. It may also be affected by horse chestnut scale insect, which appears as fluffy white spots on the trunk and branches during the summer.



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