

## CMCL Bulletin No 15 Tree planting

When Julian and Annie moved to the village last year, they brought a silver birch tree in a pot with them, and asked if it could be planted somewhere in the village. In this bulletin we want to tell you about what this apparently simple request entailed, and also let you know a little about the area where the tree has recently been planted.

Jim and Peter spent some time considering the best location for the tree, and investigated a number of possibilities. They concluded that a position in “Jim’s Arboretum” would be the most suitable. This is the area in front of Crambeck House, where the public footpath to Kirkham leaves the village. Jim happened to call this an arboretum one day, and we think “Jim’s Arboretum” is a good name for it.



In the days of the reform school, this was the area used for Rural Studies. There was a classroom, several greenhouses, and areas for pigs, chickens and pheasants. When these buildings and pens were installed, soil was removed so the bases could be constructed. The soil was piled up along the boundary, forming a bank, and trees were planted on the bank. You can still see the remains of the bank, as many of the trees are now growing on little hills. The rest of the bank, between the trees, was removed and spread over the area, when the classrooms, greenhouses etc were demolished, as part of the development of Crambeck Village. Steel posts were originally used to support the young trees, but recently Peter removed most of these, as they were starting to damage the trees.



Going further back in time, the area south of the village was the site of a Roman pottery. You can read about this on the village website at [www.crambeckvillage.com](http://www.crambeckvillage.com) Because of this, all the fields to the south of the village, right up to the caravan park, are part of a Scheduled National Monument. The monument includes Jim’s Arboretum, so we had to apply to Historic England for consent to plant the tree. The application had to go to the Secretary of State (yes, for a tree to be planted!), so it took a while for the application to be approved.

Eventually the consent arrived, with its conditions, and we then had to decide exactly where to plant the tree, bearing in mind the lighting conditions, the layout of the existing trees, and the ground itself – because there are still sections of concrete under some of the grass. After consultation, we agreed a position on the edge of the first group of trees, so Jim and Peter planted it there on 27<sup>th</sup> April. We hope it flourishes.



In the autumn, Jim and Peter plan to start their routine tree trimming in this area. One of the trees requiring attention is a willow, just left of the tall sitka spruce in the centre of the picture. This is a multi-stemmed tree, which has not been looked after over the years, and it now has long, leggy branches going in all directions. When John Grimshaw, the Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum, visited last year, he suggested cutting this right down, and allowing it to re-grow from the stump – i.e. coppice it. This is what we plan to do, and the new growth will be managed, to create a better shaped tree.



Best wishes

Richard Pollard – Chairman Crambeck House  
Geoff Candler – Book keeper No 29  
Andy Craig-Smith No 53  
Steve Tomlinson No 26  
Peter Roberts No 8