

(Appendix: A)

A Platinum Jubilee Tree for Grafham

1. Recommended: **Wild Crab Apple** (*Malus sylvestris*), a native tree suitable for this area.
2. It is the wild form of domestic apple varieties.
3. Most crab-apples grow into medium-sized trees, typically 5-7m high and up to the same wide, with a clear stem of about 1m-1.5m. This depends on variety
4. The winter fruits can stay on the tree right through January and beyond. They provide food for mammals including mice, voles, foxes and badgers, and for birds such as robins, fieldfares, blackbirds, thrushes.
5. In spring the blossom provides a welcoming display, attracting bees and at least 90 other insect species.



6. The features that make this a suitable choice for Grafham are:
 - a) Its relatively small size as a mature tree, this will be variety dependent.
 - b) The root system of a mature crab apple tree is neither aggressive nor invasive. Crab apple roots are not known to break through building foundations unless the foundation is already cracked or leaking.
 - c) Its attractive blossom early in the year and its attractive fruit.
 - d) It tends not to drop its fruit
 - e) It is extremely wildlife friendly
7. They can be prone to disease so variety is key, some are disease resistant.
8. Some concerns have been raised about possible toxicity for dogs.
 - a. The seeds are toxic for any mammal including us, if eaten in great quantities and then only if chewed and broken open.
 - b. This means that the risk is very low. Many people have crab apples in their gardens and have dogs with no problems.
 - c. The fruits do not drop in great quantities, unlike domestic apples.
 - d. People walking dogs are unlikely to let their dog stop and feast on fruits on the ground whilst out walking.

- e. Most dogs, and people, do not chew the seeds, they pass through undigested; this is to the advantage of the tree!
9. Cost will be between £10-50 depending on variety and age of sapling.
10. Proposed positioning of the tree is next to the pub, as previously discussed.
- a. It will take up little room.
 - b. There is plenty of space for seating around the pub area, such that this would make an attractive addition, along with its plaque, rather than compromise seating.
 - c. As there is a clear trunk, seating can be placed close around it.



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