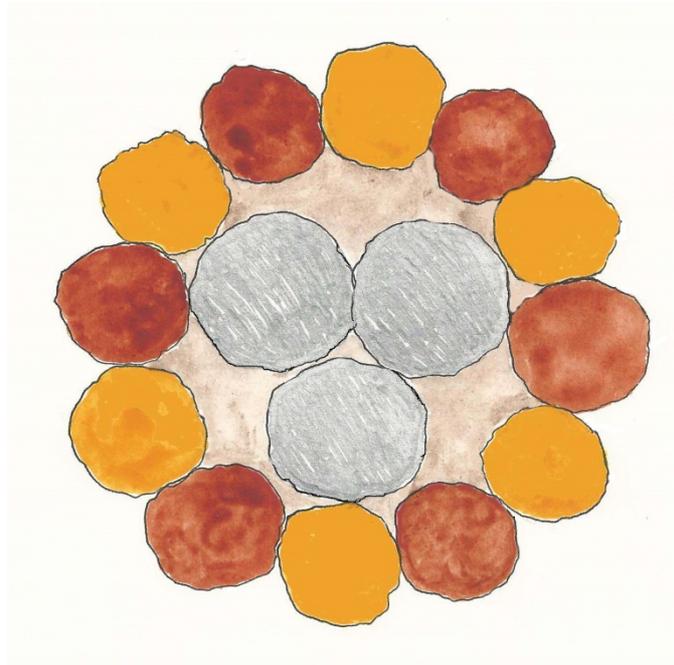


## Much Wenlock Tree Forum Feb 2015

### Gaskell Ground Olympian Planting Plan Proposal

#### Part One



The proposal sets out a possible design for an Olympian feature planting on the Gaskell Ground configuring gold, silver and bronze in a medal formation.

The central feature is three **silver birch** trees. These varieties are small in height but have striking silver white bark, which peels to bronze.

*Betula utilis jacquemontii*. 'Silver Shadow', 'Grayswood Ghost' or 'Snow Queen'

The three central trees which give height are surrounded by **gold and bronze leaves shrubs** which can be densely planted in alternate colours forming a circular hedge which can be trimmed to the appropriate height annually. Suggested plants are;

Gold: *Euonymos fortuna* 'Emerald and Gold' evergreen  
or *Cornealian Cherry* *cornus mas aurea* yellow leaves turning to reddish purple in autumn

Bronze: *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal purple' 'Notcutts Variety' no leaves in winter  
*Cornus Alba* 'Kesselringii' Autumn bronze

**Notes:** The planting base would be bark. There could be spaces in the planting to facilitate a bench under the trees and maintenance. The shrubs should be densely planted. The ground preparation, supply of plants and planting is the province of professional landscapers, but a small number of volunteers could help with planting to bring a community element into the project. The overall spread of this planting would need approximately 36 feet.

#### Location

The Tree Forum have discussed the proposed location at the top of the GG Linden Walk but it was felt that the canopy of large trees was so dense that new planting would not succeed because of competition and lack of light.

The Tree Forum does not wish to propose new locations, preferring to leave that decision the Charity Board. However we can suggest that there is space for such a planting at the playground end of the field. There is an approximate distance of 66ft from the football pitch

touch line to the top of the children's playground bank. There is also some space near to the Olympian Medal.



## **Part Two**

The Gaskell Ground play area is affected quite seriously with what is now acknowledged to be a natural water course.

It would seem to be an advantage to plant this area up with large water loving plants, once established this would discourage children from entering the area and avoid the problem of trying to cut the grass through boggy soft ground. It would also be an attractive feature for those residents who use the ground for walking rather than as a sports facility.

It is not strictly necessary, we believe, to cut the willow section of the surrounding hedge, these plants could be left to form trees.

We suggest that the waterlogged area within and outside of the playground could be planted with a combination of;

*Osmunda Fern, 'Regalis' and Rodgersia pinnata. Bulrushes and other water plants would also be suitable.*

