



TALL TALES ABOUT OUR TOWERING TREES

1. Alder.

Did you know : Alder trees flowers make green dye which was used to colour and camouflage the clothes of outlaws like Robin Hood, as well as the clothes of fairies, to hide them from human eyes.

In Welsh Legend, the alder tree is the sign of the Celtic giant-god, Bran. Bran's sister, Branwen, was being badly treated by her husband, Matholwch, the cruel King of Ireland. So Bran called his men together and set off to rescue her; but when they came to the River, they found that the only bridge has been knocked down on the orders of the cruel Irish king, so Bran lay down across the river to allow the men to pass over his body. This is why you always see alder trees growing near or in natural water.



2. Holly.

Did you know : If you take some holly into your home, good fairies will move in. But make sure it's smooth-leaved holly, this means you will get a good fairy. The prickly-leaves mean you could get a naughty fairy move in !

The Holly King rules over the half of the year from the summer to the shortest day of winter, when the Oak King defeats the Holly King to rule for the time until the shortest day of summer again. The Holly King is a powerful giant of a man covered in holly leaves and branches, and holds a holly bush as a club !

3. Hawthorn

Did you know : In Ireland traditionally, no one cuts the lone hawthorn tree as this is the meeting places of the fairies. Indeed, many roads have been diverted to avoid cutting one down.

The flowers of the hawthorn were highly prized, and at one time, were exported around the world. The flowering of the hawthorn tree is often taken as a sign that winter is over and spring is underway. That's why, the tree has been viewed as an sign of changes in the seasons, or a type of tree weather forecaster !!



4. Ash.

Did you know : Viking gods Odin and Thor, the god of thunder, possessed magical spears made of ash wood.

In the Viking Legend of Yggdrasil, (igg - dra - sil), Yggdrasil was an ash tree - the World Tree. It grew on an island surrounded by the ocean, at the bottom of which the World Serpent lay. The ash tree's trunk reached up to the sky, and its branches spread out over all the countries of the Earth, It's roots reached down into the nether world. A squirrel ran up and down the tree carrying messages from the serpent to the eagle in the canopy. A deer fed on the ash leaves and from its antlers flowed the great rivers of the world. A magical goat grazed by the tree, and its udders dispensed not milk but chocolate milkshake for the warriors in Odin's army.

5. Willow.

Did you know : 'Wind in the willows' refers to the elves whispering among themselves in willows as people walk underneath !!

The phrase 'to knock on wood' means knock on to the wood of a willow tree. This relates to the secret-keeping ability of the willow. Next time you have a secret you want to keep, tell the willow tree , and it will trap it in its wood.

Country folk have been familiar with the healing properties of willow for a long time, to make pain go away they would chew young willow twigs. YUK !

