



ABOUT MARK'S OAKLING

Quercus robur is the English Oak or Pedunculate Oak, so-called because the acorns are borne on short stalks, called peduncles.

The other native oak is called *Quercus petraea*, the Sessile Oak, as the acorns' sit directly on the twigs, without a stalk.

BP1569 is the code by which I can identify the parent oak tree. It represents a series of plant collections that I have made over the years, since BP1 in October 1996 on Mt Oku in Cameroon.

The Mother Oak of this lovely little oakling sits splendidly in Cornbury Park, near Charlbury. As such it is a local oak to us.

I called it the Badger Oak, as it had part of a badger sett underneath it when I visited. It is a magnificent tree, 8.9m in girth, which would give it an estimated age of around 700 to 800 years old, maybe even reaching back to the important time of Magna Carta.

The tree had 4 acorns visible and accessible, which I harvested on the 1st October 2015. I have grown this tree from one of those acorns, lovingly, since.

May it grow strong and true, be generous in spirit and keep good, old memories alive in all of us, who continue on with life in this realm.

**And here is the 'Badger' Oak, parent tree of the oakling we planted.
The clumps of nettles behind it, to the right, give us some sense of
its scale.**





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Planted 20 December 2020, Wytham Woods

An additional note: with the blessing of Mark's family, I sprinkled a little tobacco leaf around the base of the plant. In many cultures around the world, notably the Native Americans / First Nations / Indigenous peoples of the American continent, but also elsewhere, tobacco is a sacred plant. It is used ceremonially to offer thanks to the 'otherworld', the spirits, and to confer peace on the departed. It is also an offering of gratitude to the land and those that dwell there.



You can also see here:

- the red ribbon attached by Basia
- Andy Goodwin's handmade hazel and willow wreath
- the protective post and mesh fence supplied and installed by Nigel Fisher and his team, to ensure it is protected from herbivory

What a wonderful spot this tree is in, at the fork in the track, as you head up the hill.

So be sure to 'doff your cap' to the tree and to Mark, whenever you walk or run past