

Forest Perspectives

“Finely furnished with trees” The ceremonial planting of the grounds of *Áras an Uachtaráin*

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Introduction

The genesis of tree collections in Ireland is varied. The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, was founded in 1795 by the (Royal) Dublin Society with the ongoing purpose to develop plant collections, including trees; foster botanical studies and promote knowledge of plants among the general public. In the 19th century and early 20th century landowners such as the Viscount Powerscourt at Powerscourt, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow and the Marquess of Headfort, Kells, Co. Meath had a keen interest in the tree species then being introduced into cultivation from temperate regions of the world. They planted notable collections of coniferous and broadleaved trees, much of which remain extant. In 1905 State development of forestry provided the impetus for planting some 100 coniferous and broadleaved species in experimental blocks at Avondale, Co. Wicklow. Tree collections were also developed to remember a person or particular commemorative event. A notable illustration of the former being the John F. Kennedy Memorial Park and Arboretum, New Ross, Co. Wexford, an arboretum dating from 1968 comprising some 4,500 trees and shrubs. An example of the latter, the Millennium Arboretum, St. Anne’s Park, Raheny, Dublin was planted in 1988 with 1,000 different trees purchased by public subscription, to mark the foundation of Dublin in 888 A.D. Trees are also planted for ceremonial purposes and a unique collection of such trees is cultivated in the grounds of *Áras an Uachtaráin* in the Phoenix Park, Dublin.

Keywords: *Tree Collections, Phoenix Park, Dublin*

The grounds of *Áras an Uachtaráin*

Áras an Uachtaráin is one of three demesne landscapes in the 707 ha (1,752 acre) Phoenix Park. Originally the residence of the Park Ranger, Robert Clements, since 1782 it has been the official residence of the Lords Lieutenant, the Governors General

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(1922 – 1937) and since 1938 the Presidents of Ireland (Anon. 2013). The grounds extend to 56 ha (139 acres).

An early map c. 1775 by Asser (McCullen 2009) shows a wooded landscape to the left of the house, walled gardens to the right, lawn to the south and fields to the north. In the early 19th century, planting of this wooded landscape and the pleasure grounds closer to the residence continued. In 1855 the pleasure grounds were refurbished and planted with conifers supplied by Oakdale Nurseries, Liverpool and Ninian Niven, nurseryman, Drumcondra, from a list compiled by Mr. Wilkie, the Park bailiff (McCullen 2009). This work caught the attention of horticultural writers of the period. William Robinson who was to give his name to a style of gardening, visited the grounds in 1865. He wrote, “To the north of the flower garden is the “wild garden”, half pleasure ground, half wilderness, and in which when Lord St. Germans left in 1855 each of his family planted a tree” (Robinson 1865). Visiting Irish gardens in 1870, a correspondent wrote, “The private policies and gardens are of considerable extent, finely furnished with trees, tastefully laid out, and pretty well maintained” (B 1870).

These writers would have seen a representative collection of conifers which formed a “Pinetum”, an arboretum confined to conifers (Figure 1). Among the trees in this area today are mature specimens of Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*¹) from the Mediterranean region; yew trees (*Taxus baccata*) from Europe, including several Irish yew (*Taxus baccata* “Fastigiata”); two specimens of Oriental spruce (*Picea orientalis*) from the Caucasus and Turkey; incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), several western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) all from western North America; morinda spruce (*Picea smithiana*), from the region Afghanistan to Nepal; and several deodar cedars (*Cedrus deodara*), native to the Himalayas. At this time shrubs such as cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Portugal laurel (*P. lusitanica*) were planted to form shrubberies and many remain, together with a weeping ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* “Pendula”), a popular specimen tree of the Victorian and Edwardian period.

Ceremonial trees

From the mid-19th century ceremonial tree planting has taken place in the grounds (Figure 2). Metal plaques in various sizes and styles with lettering in English or Irish or other languages, give the name of the tree and record the name of the person who planted it and the date of planting. From September 1853, when Queen Victoria planted the first of three trees in the grounds, to 1922, trees were planted by members of the British Royal family, Lords Lieutenant of Ireland and the Prime Minister of Canada. From 1939 to the present, ceremonial trees have been planted by Presidents of Ireland and visiting Heads of State from many countries. A list of ceremonial trees planted from 1853 to date is given in Table 1.

¹The full scientific notation is included with all species presented in Table 1.



Figure 1: View of the Pinetum. Kay Hartigan, Diarmuid McAree, Kevin Hutchinson and Michael O’Brien of the Tree Council of Ireland visited Áras an Uachtaráin in June 2015. The photographs that appear in this article were taken by Mary Forrest and are used with the permission of the Press Officer of Áras an Uachtaráin.

The first tree on what became known as the Queen’s Walk, which is located to the left of the front lawn of the residence, is an oak. A large metal sign reads “*Quercus robur pedunculata* Irish Oak Planted by Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria September 1853”. The Walk is lined with now mature trees, deciduous horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), common and copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica*, *F. sylvatica* f. *purpurea*) and pedunculate oak and evergreen Lawson cypress. While these trees are commonly seen in avenues or as parkland trees, Canadian maple (*Acer rubrum*), is



Figure 2: *Ceremonial trees line the entrance drive to Áras an Uachtaráin.*

unusual. Two specimens were planted by the Prime Minister of Canada Sir Wilfrid and his wife, Lady Laurier in July 1907. He came to Dublin to visit the Irish International Exhibition at which there was a Canadian pavilion (Anon 1907). Not all ceremonial trees have survived. Two Cornish elm trees (*Ulmus angustifolia* var. *cornubiensis*) planted by the last two Lords Lieutenant of Ireland, succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease.

To the south of the residence a formal parterre with lawns and formal bedding schemes and a row of Irish yew, defining the outline of the area, is known as the Front Lawn. One tree, a giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), stands out. The commemorative plaque reads, “Wellingtonia gigantea planted by Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria August 1861”. Two specimens were noted by William Robinson (1865) when he visited the Phoenix Park. The tree planted by Prince Albert, Prince Consort, did not survive. The only other ceremonial tree planted on the Front Lawn was a pedunculate oak was planted by Pope John Paul II in September 1979. By 2015, it had developed to display the typical domed shape of the species.

Within close view of the giant redwood planted by Queen Victoria stand two further trees of the same species planted by President de Valera and President John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America on 27th June 1963. While both trees demonstrate the conical habit of the species, they are smaller than might be expected after 50 years growth. One tree which forked low on the trunk is beginning to develop some strong branches.

Trees planted by Presidents of Ireland

Each President of Ireland has planted one or more trees in the grounds. To mark his first year in office, President Douglas Hyde planted a Cornish elm, on the North Lawn. Two dates are given for the ceremony; 22nd March 1939 and 25th June 1939. Given that photographs of the ceremony show a bare-stemmed tree with the President and his party wearing overcoats and hats, the earlier date is likely to be correct (Mc Cullen 1993 and www.president.ie). The tree succumbed to Dutch elm disease and was felled in 1985. A story told that the original tree was planted on a flat stone proved to be true when the remains were cleared. Happily, propagation by tip cuttings had previously been undertaken by Teagasc and several young trees were planted in the Walled Garden and a specimen was planted by President McAleese on the site of the original tree (Figure 3).

On 9th November 1948, President Sean T. O’Ceallaigh and his wife Phyllis Ní Riain each planted Irish pedunculate oak trees on The Queens’s Walk. Plaques, written in Irish, record the planting on February 2nd 1962 of native Irish trees -oak by President de Valera and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) by Sinéad Bean de Valera. Eleven years later on 11th May 1973, President de Valera and the Head of the Jewish Community in Ireland planted three Aleppo pine specimens (*Pinus halapensis*). At a memorial service in memory of the President in 1975, the Chief Rabbi recalled this event saying that young trees from the Eamon de Valera forest, which had been established by the Irish Jewish Community in Israel, were planted by the late President (Cooney 1975).



Figure 3: An elm tree planted by President McAleese, a cutting of the tree planted by President Hyde in 1939.

Trees were planted in the area between the West Wing and the Arboretum in memory of two presidents. On 16th December 1975 Rita Childers, widow of President Erskine Childers and his daughter, Nessa, planted a magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and a strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), respectively. In April 1978, two whitebeam trees (*S. aria*) and a weeping birch (*Betula pendula* “Youngii”) were planted in memory of Cearbhaill O’Dálaigh, President 1974 – 1976, by Máirín Bean Uí Dhálaigh and Aidan Carl Mathews, godson of the President.

Two large-growing ornamental trees were planted by President Patrick Hillery and Mrs Maeve Hillery on 19th May 1978. They were respectively, a copper beech (*F. sylvatica* “Purpurea”) and a blue atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* “Glauca”). On 17th March 1984, President Hillery planted an ash to mark “Trees for Ireland” National Arbor Day (Fitzpatrick n.d.). Four years later, the President and Mrs Hillery each planted a pedunculate oak to mark the Millennium celebrations of the City of Dublin.

On 5th November 1991 President Mary Robinson planted a sapling oak to mark the launch of Acorn month. The aim of the *Grow Your Own Oak Tree* environmental project was to plant 250,000 oak trees. This was a joint project between ECO, the environmental youth organisation and Jet Oil who were supplying acorns from their petrol stations (Anon. 1991). To mark the launch of the National Tree Week programme for 1991, President Robinson planted a beech in a paddock to the north side of the Áras. On 23rd April 1996, President Robinson and her husband, Nicholas Robinson, each planted a pedunculate oak in the Arboretum.

The Family Tree Scheme was initiated by the Tree Council of Ireland in 1988 and continues to the present time. In January 2000 President Mary McAleese and her family planted seven bay laurel trees (*Laurus nobilis*). Before leaving office in November 2011, President McAleese planted an upright English oak (*Quercus robur* “Fastigiata”) close to the bell by the entrance to the Racquet Hall. President McAleese also planted a Cornish elm to replace a tree planted by President Hyde (see earlier).

To mark ESB National Tree Week on March 3rd 2015, President Michael D. Higgins planted a blue atlas cedar (*C. atlantica* “Glauca”) and Mrs Sabina Higgins planted a Cedar of Lebanon (*C. libani*) on either side of the main avenue leading to their official residence (Anon. 2105). Their selection augmented the existing conifer collection in the grounds.

As part of the “Ireland 1916” centenary commemorations programme, President Higgins hosted a “Children seen and heard 1916 – 2016” event on 15th June 2016. In the presence of 300 children, the President planted a pedunculate oak and buried a time capsule. While school children have been attending ceremonial tree planting by visiting heads of state for many years, this was the first ceremonial tree planting organized specifically for young people.

Ceremonial trees planted by visiting Heads of State

Apart from an oak planted by President Charles de Gaulle in the Queen's Walk in 1969, all ceremonial trees planted by visiting Heads of State were planted to the west of *Áras an Uachtaráin*. These trees are planted either side of a broad serpentine road which leads from the entrance gates to the residence.

In the 1980s and 1990s visiting heads of state have planted trees native to their own countries. In 1985 Crown Prince Akihito planted a Kadsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) Twenty years later the then Emperor and Empress of Japan examined the now mature tree in the company of President and Dr. McAleese (Donaghy and Byrne 2005). The President of Austria planted a lime (*Tilia cordata*) while the King of Sweden planted a Swedish whitebeam (*Sorbus intermedia*). The *Magnolia grandiflora* planted by President Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, was "doubly American" as it were, being native to the southern and eastern United States and propagated from a cutting of a tree cultivated in the gardens of the White House. In 1995 a later President of the United States, President Bill Clinton planted an 8-year-old oak on the West Avenue. From the late 1990s, visiting Heads of State have planted *Q. robur* trees.

The Peace Bell stands between the west corner of *Áras an Uachtaráin* and the Racquet Court. Three specimens of *Q. robur* "Fastigiata" an upright form of oak were planted in front of the Bell by Queen Elizabeth II and President Barack Obama on the occasion of their visits to Ireland on 17th and 23rd May 2011 respectively, as well as by President McAleese on 4th November 2011.

Present day Tree Management

A carpet of mulch has been spread under and between the ceremonial trees on the Queen's Walk to prevent root damage as the soils are prone to compaction (Figure 4). Newly planted trees are supported with a short stake and protected by spiral rabbit guards. Large metal tree guards, a distinctive feature of the Phoenix Park in general, protect trees from the cattle which graze the paddocks. To encourage growth and prevent compaction, a circle of ground beneath the tree is maintained weed free and mulched with bark.

On the formal parterres closely mown grass accentuates the extent of the lawns. The policy of improving biodiversity within the Phoenix Park also includes *Áras an Uachtaráin*. Extensive areas of the parkland and grounds of the *Áras* are actively managed as wild-flower meadows, with annual mowing in early autumn, so as to prevent any damage to ground nesting birds. The tree collection within the *Áras* is regularly surveyed, inspected and managed in accordance with best practice by the Office of Public Works professional staff. The trees in general are very healthy with a number now reaching maturity. However, some of the horse chestnut trees are showing early



Figure 4: *The Queen's Walk, Áras an Uachtaráin.*

signs of bleeding canker. The tree collection shows the merit of initial wide spacing at the time of planting so that trees may attain the full dimensions typical of their species.

The practice of visiting Heads of State planting *Q. robur* has become policy. As well as being a native species, the tree is long-lived and in time will be in scale with the residence and the surrounding perimeter of parkland trees. Together with *Fraxinus*, *Betula*, *Arbutus* and *Sorbus* spp., they have become a fitting representative collection of trees native to Ireland. With the exception of the 1950s, some ceremonial planting has taken place in each decade from the 1850s to the present. Most of the trees planted are of long-lived nature. With the sequential development and senescence of these trees, a continuing generational evolution in tree cover will be maintained in the grounds.

Since the date of planting of each tree is known, the growth rate of trees can be recorded. Some specimens (Table 2) are included in the Tree Register of Ireland, a register of 11,000 trees maintained by the Tree Council of Ireland and the Irish Tree Society (Tree Council website). With the exception of the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, it is doubtful whether continuous recorded planting over a 160-year period has occurred elsewhere in Ireland. Details of similar collections of ceremonial trees in other countries, if they exist, have not come to light. The ceremonial trees are also a reminder of the successive residents of *Áras an Uachtaráin*, the many Heads of State who have visited them and by extension the Irish people.

The grounds of *Áras an Uachtaráin* were described in the 1870s as “finely furnished with trees” and remain so a century and a half later.

Table 1: A complete list of ceremonial trees planted in Áras an Uachtaráin (adapted from *Mc Cullen (1993) and augmented by Margaret Gormley (Chief Park Superintendent, 28th October 2015)*).

Date	Head of State /Country	Name of Tree	Common Name	Location
1853	Queen Victoria	<i>Quercus robur</i> L.	Pedunculate oak	The Queen's Walk
1861	Queen Victoria	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> (Lindl.) Buchholz	Giant sequoia, Wellingtonia Redwood	Front Lawn
1869, 27 th April	Prince Arthur Patrick	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>		The Queen's Walk
1897, 28 th August	The Duke of York	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> (Murr.) Parlatore	Lawson cypress	The Queen's Walk
1897, 28 th August	The Duchess of York	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>		The Queen's Walk
1900, 24 th April	Queen Victoria	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak	The Queen's Walk
1900, 24 th April	Princess Henry of Battenburg	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> f. <i>purpurea</i> (Ait.) Schneid.	Copper beech	The Queen's Walk
1900, 24 th April	Princes Alexander Leopold and Maurice of Battenburg	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.	Beech	The Queen's Walk
1900, 25 th April	Princess Victoria Eugenie of Battenburg	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		The Queen's Walk
1900, 26 th April	Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> f. <i>purpurea</i>		The Queen's Walk
1904, 21 st April	Princess Margaret of Connaught	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> f. <i>purpurea</i>		The Queen's Walk
1904, 21 st April	Princess Patricia of Connaught	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		The Queen's Walk
1904, 21 st April	The Duke of Connaught	<i>Quercus robur</i>		The Queen's Walk
1904, 21 st April	The Duchess of Connaught	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		The Queen's Walk
1904, 30 th April	Princess Victoria	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> L.	Horse chestnut	The Queen's Walk
1904, 30 th April	King Edward VII	<i>Quercus robur</i>		The Queen's Walk
1904, 30 th April	Queen Alexandra	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		The Queen's Walk

1904, May	Prince Arthur of Connaught	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> f. <i>purpurea</i>	The Queen's Walk
1907, 8 th July	Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada	<i>Acer rubrum</i> L.	The Queen's Walk Canadian Maple
1907, 8 th July	Lady Laurier	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	The Queen's Walk
1907, 19 th December	Lord Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	<i>Acer rubrum</i> [replanted]	The Queen's Walk
1907, 19 th December	Lady Aberdeen, wife of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	The Queen's Walk
1908, 20 th April	Marchioness of Londonderry	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	The Queen's Walk
1911, 9 th July	Prince of Wales	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	The Queen's Walk
1911, 9 th July	Princess Mary	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	The Queen's Walk
1921, 23 rd February	Viscount French of Ypres, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	<i>Ulmus angustifolia</i> var. <i>cornubiensis</i> (Weston) Rehd.	The Queen's Walk Cornish Elm [died]
1922, 21 st November	Viscount Fitzalen of Derwent, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	<i>Ulmus angustifolia</i> var. <i>cornubiensis</i> [died]	The Queen's Walk
1922, 21 st November	Viscountess Fitzalen of Derwent	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> f. <i>purpurea</i>	The Queen's Walk
1946, 1 st October	Presented by Lord Mountbatten of Burma to President O'Kelly	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> f. <i>purpurea</i>	The Queen's Walk
1948, 22 nd July	An Taoiseach, John A. Costelloe; J. Blowick, Minister for Lands; Councillor J. Breen, Lord Mayor of Dublin; Sean Moylan T.D. Monsignor Michael J. Curran PP, Bray; Sir Shane Leslie	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> (Endl.) Carr.	Atlas Cedar Adjacent to Lime Walk Six of 12 trees donated by "The Men of the Trees" on the occasion of their visit.
1948, 9 th November	Maximilian Claudia Habsburg Lothringen, Prince of Firenze	<i>Quercus</i>	The Queen's Walk
1948, 9 th November	Claudia Habsburg Lothringen, Princess of Firenze	<i>Quercus</i>	The Queen's Walk

Table 1: Continued.

Date	Head of State /Country	Name of Tree	Common Name	Location
1948, 9 th November	Gertrud Habsburg Lothringen, Princess of Firenze	<i>Quercus</i>		The Queen's Walk
1962, 2 nd February	President de Valera	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Off West Wing to Arboretum
1962, 2 nd February	Bean de Valera	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L. and <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> L.	Ash and rowan	Off West Wing to Arboretum
1963, 27 th June	President J.F. Kennedy, USA	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>		Off West Wing to Arboretum
1963, 27 th June	President de Valera	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>		Off West Wing to Arboretum
1968, 17 th May	King Baudouin of Belgium	<i>Quercus robur</i>		The Queen's Walk
1968, 17 th May	Queen Fabiola of Belgium	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		The Queen's Walk
1969, 18 th June	President de Gaulle France	<i>Quercus robur</i>		The Queen's Walk
1969, 18 th June	Madame de Gaulle France	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>		The Queen's Walk
1973, 11 th May	President de Valera and Head of Jewish Community in Ireland	<i>Pinus halepensis</i> Mill.	Aleppo pine	
1975, 16 th December	Mrs. Rita Childers, wife of President Childers	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> L.	Evergreen magnolia	Off West Wing to Arboretum
1975, 16 th December	Nessa Childers, daughter of President Childers	<i>Arbutus unedo</i> L.	Strawberry tree	Off West Wing to Arboretum
1976, 6 th August	Walter Scheel, West Germany	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> Scop. rubra	Lime	Off West Wing to Arboretum
1976, 6 th August	Frau Mildred Scheel	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> rubra		Off West Wing to Arboretum
1978, 14 th April	Máirín Bean Uí Dhálaigh	<i>Sorbus aria</i> L.	Crantz whitebeam	Off West Wing to Arboretum
1978, 14 th April	Aidan Carl Mathews, godson of President O'Dálaigh	<i>Betula pendula</i> Roth "Youngii"	Birch	Off West Wing to Arboretum
1978, 24 th April	Prince Henrik of Denmark	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		The Queen's Walk
1978, 24 th April	Queen Margrethe of Denmark	<i>Quercus robur</i>		The Queen's Walk
1978, 19 th May	President Patrick Hillery	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> f. <i>purpurea</i>		Arboretum
1978, 19 th May	Mrs. Maeve Hillery	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> "Glauca"	Blue Cedar	Arboretum

1979, 9 th September	J.K. Nyerere, President of Tanzania	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> "Rohanii"	The Queen's Walk
1979, 29 th September	Pope John Paul II, Vatican	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Front Lawn
1980, 29 th April	Karl Carstens, President of Germany	<i>Tilia</i> × <i>euchlora</i> L.	The Queen's Walk
1982, 3 rd May	Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of India	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1982, 2 nd June	Grand Duke of Luxembourg	<i>Quercus petraea</i> (Mattuschka) Lieblein	The Queen's Walk
1984, 17 th March	President Patrick Hillery	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Arboretum
1984, 3 rd June	Mr. Ronald Reagan, President USA	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	From a cutting of a tree in the gardens of the White House, Washington
1985, 4 th April	Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko, Crown Prince and Princess of Japan	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> Sieb. and Zucc.	Arboretum
1985, June	Chaim Hertzog, President of Israel	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> L.	Planted by OPW staff off West Wing to Arboretum
1986, 9 th June	Francesco Cossiga, President of Italy	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Arboretum
1986, 29 th June	King Juan Carlos of Spain	<i>Castanea sativa</i> Mill.	Arboretum
1988, 28 th February	Francois Mitterand, President of France	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1988, 29 th April	President Patrick Hillery	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1988, 29 th April	Mrs. Maeve Hillery	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1989, 7 th May	50 th Anniversary of the Irish Red Cross	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1990, 30 th October	Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands	<i>Tilia cordata</i> Mill.	Arboretum
		Lime	

Table 1: Continued.

Date	Head of State /Country	Name of Tree	Common Name	Location
1991, 11 th February	President Mary Robinson	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		Paddock on north side of Áras an Uachtaráin
1991, 3 rd October	Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, President of Iceland	<i>Betula pendula</i> Roth.	Silver Birch	Arboretum
1991, 5 th November	President Mary Robinson	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Paddock on north side of Áras an Uachtaráin
1992, 7 th April	King Carl Gustav XVI of Sweden	<i>Sorbus intermedia</i> (Ehrh.) Pers.	Swedish whitebeam	Arboretum
1992, 20 th July	Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker, Federal Republic of Germany	<i>Tilia</i>	Lime	Arboretum
1993, 1 st June	President Soares, President of Portugal	<i>Pinus pinea</i> L.	Stone pine	Hyde Room
1994, 4 th May	Thomas Klestil, President of Austria	<i>Tilia cordata</i>		Arboretum
1995, 13 th March	Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
1995, 24 th April	Árpád Göncz, President of the Republic of Hungary	<i>Quercus frainetto</i> Ten.	Hungarian oak	Arboretum
1995, 15 th November	Mr. Frederick Chiluba, President of Zambia	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
1995, 1 st December	Mr. Bill Clinton, President USA	<i>Quercus robur</i> ^a		Arboretum
1996, 23 rd April	President Mary Robinson	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
1996, 23 rd April	Mr. Nicholas Robinson	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
1996, 14 th May	Martti Ahtisaari, President of the Republic of Finland	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Arboretum

1996, 28 th June	Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Arboretum
1997, 19 th February	King Hussein of Jordan	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1997, 10 th March	Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1997, 23 rd March	Dr. Roman Herzog, President of Germany	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1997, 25 th March	Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of Poland	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
1999, 31 st May	Dr. Jorge Sampaio, President of Portugal	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2000, January	President Mary McAleese and family	7 × <i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Arboretum Bay laurel
2000, 4 th July	President of Greece	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2000, 23 rd October	President of Uganda	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2001, 24 th September	President of Lithuania	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2002, 4 th March	President of Luxembourg	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2002, 4 th June	President of Latvia	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2002, 28 th June	President of Nigeria	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2003, 16 th June	King of Malaysia	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2003, 3 rd July	President of Germany	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2003, 10 th July	President of Chile	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2005, 21 st February	President of Hungary	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2005, 12 th December	President of Bulgaria	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2006, 31 st May	Governor General of New Zealand	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2006, 18 th September	King of Norway	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum
2007, 19 th February	President of Poland	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Arboretum

Table 1: Continued.

Date	Head of State /Country	Name of Tree	Common Name	Location
2007, 26 th March	President of Slovakia	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2007, 8 th October	King of Belgium	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2007, 12 th November	President of Finland	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2008, 14 th April	President of Estonia	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2008, 10 th November	President of Czech Republic	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2010, 8 th March	José Ramos Horta, President of East Timor	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2011, 4 th April	Prince Albert II of Monaco	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2011, 17 th May	Queen Elizabeth II of England	<i>Quercus robur</i> "Fastigiata"	English upright oak	Bell
2011, 23 rd May	President Barack Obama, USA	<i>Quercus robur</i> "Fastigiata"		Bell
2011, 4 th November	President Mc Aleese	<i>Quercus robur</i> "Fastigiata"		Bell
2014, 3 rd June	President Guebuza of Mozambique	<i>Prunus</i> "Kanzan"		Arboretum
2014, 6 th October	President of Austria	<i>Prunus</i> "Kanzan"		Arboretum
2015, 3 rd March	President Michael D. Higgins	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> "Glauca"		Arboretum
2015, 3 rd March	Mrs. Sabina Higgins	<i>Cedrus libani</i>	Cedar of Lebanon	Arboretum
2015, 13 th July	President Gauck of Germany	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2016, 15 th June	President Michael D. Higgins	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum
2016, 18 th October	President Anastasiades of Cyprus	<i>Quercus robur</i>		Arboretum

^aThis Irish oak was eight years-old when planted.

Table 2: *Champion Trees in Áras an Uachtaráin, recorded on 31st August 2000 (from Tree Register of Ireland (8/9/2015), courtesy of Dr. Matthew Jebb, National Botanic Gardens).*

Name of Tree	Height (m)	Girth (m)	Height of measurement (m)
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> Planted by Princess Victoria in 1904	16.4	2.27	1.50
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	24.2	4.38	1.50
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	23.7	4.69	1.50
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	25.3	3.39	1.50
<i>Cedrus libani</i>	26.8	6.40	1.50
<i>Fagus sylvatica.</i> Planted by Princess Margaret in 1904	16.07	2.70	1.50
<i>Fagus sylvatica.</i> Planted by Prince Arthur in 1904	20.5	3.38	1.50
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	10.5	1.15	1.06
<i>Picea orientalis</i>	24.4	2.68	1.50
<i>Quercus ilex</i> “Fordii”	15.3	2.07	1.50
<i>Quercus robur.</i> Planted by the King of Belgium in 1968	12.6	1.29	1.20
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	29.0	4.90	1.50

Acknowledgements

The Tree Council of Ireland visit to *Áras an Uachtaráin* on 23rd June 2015. The Library, University College Dublin; Finín Ó Murchú, *Áras an Uachtaráin*; Margaret Gormley, Chief Park Superintendent, Phoenix Park; Dr. John Mc Cullen; Dr. Matthew Jebb, Director, National Botanic Gardens.

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