

## Laburnum

There are examples in the park, this one is near to the Cell Barnes Rose Garden.

**Latin/Botanical Name:** *Laburnum anagyroides*

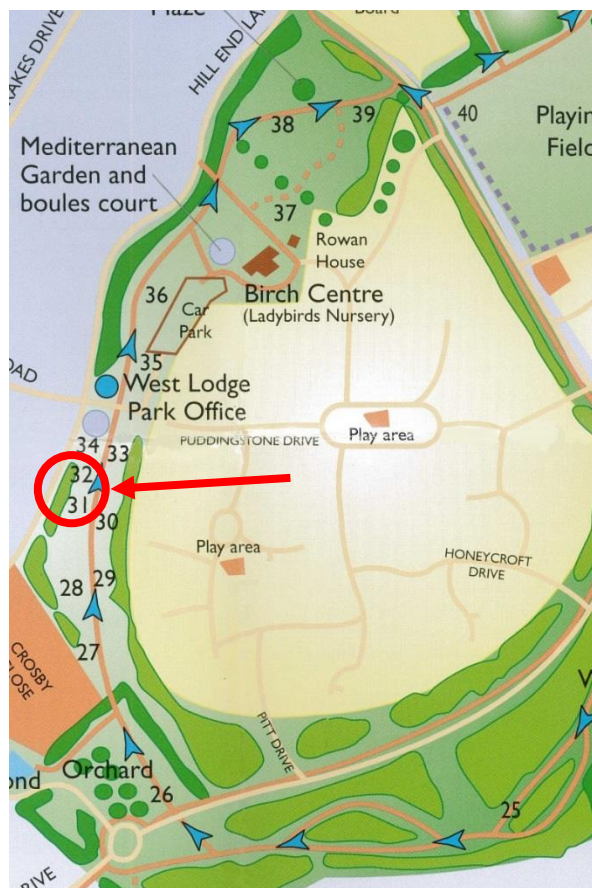
**Range:** Native to southern Europe but widely planted in northern Europe.

**Height:** to 7m.

**Uses:** Historically it has been used for cabinet making, inlay and musical instruments such as recorders and flutes and bagpipes. The heart-wood is very hard and a dark chocolate brown and has been used as a substitute for ebony or rosewood.

**Description:** A small tree with an open irregular crown. Smooth greenish-brown bark, twigs have silky hairs. Trifoliate leaves elliptical blunt and greyish-green, untoothed and hair on underside. Flowers golden yellow pea-like in a loose pendulous raceme. Produced late April. Black seeds form in a pod.

**Interesting Facts:** All parts of the plant are toxic, containing a plant alkaloid cytisine. However, its toxicity seems to have been over emphasised, it causes upset stomach and vomiting, very large quantities would need to be consumed to cause mortality.



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