

## Our Grand Old Lady

We are very fortunate to share this parish with some magnificent trees. I would like to highlight, what I consider to be, the queen of them all. It is the Oak tree that lives on the Recreation Ground which has its photograph on the home page of Pucklechurch Parish Council web site (see also my photograph below).

This Oak (*Quercus Robur*) is a great specimen and someone must have had tremendous foresight to plant it here as it is a perfect setting for such a tree as this. I have carried out some measurements to determine its age, and I believe it is between 180 - 200 years old. This means that it was planted about the time that Queen Victoria ascended to the throne!

Her life has spanned many historical events: she has lived through many wars, including the Crimean War, Boer War and both World Wars to name a few. She has also lived through Sir Alexander Fleming discovering penicillin and the suffragettes achieving the vote for women. It is also reckoned that it took well over 5000 of these mighty Oaks to build Lord Nelson's Flag ship 'Victory'.

And yet, having done all of that, she is still a mere teenager and could well live for 1000 - 2000 years! So, next time you're on 'the Rec', pay your respects to our 'Grand old lady'.

**Huw Morgan**

