

SEVEN: *Quercus x warburgii*, THE CAMBRIDGE OAK

By John Hinton

You can call me the Cambridge Oak. G - C
Yes, I'm an old bloke. -
I've got this leonotis fungus D -
eating me up from the inside and I'm broke. G -
I'm the original Cambridge Oak
There's a certain nostalgia that I evoke
But thanks to this die-back, I might as well lie back
Cos I may be about to croak.
There was talk about a little pruning C D
About some branches in need of removing C D
And I said "Give an old fellow a rest, you must be having a joke" G C D G
(Yes I said "Give an old fellow a rest, you must be having a joke") G C D G

And they said, "Yeah, but Cambridge, we have to think of health and safety" G - C
And I said "Don't give me that twaddle, I couldn't give two figs and a pastry" D - G
And they said, "But Cambridge, there are heightened chances G
Of people hit by your falling branches C
And the resulting insurance claims D
could severely dent this Garden's finances" G
And I said, "Get your mitts off my canopy, C D
You'll make a mockery of my panoply," C D
And they said, "We're just pre-empting gravity," C D
And I said, "This is simply a travesty!" C D
G - C D

And we kept on arguing in half-rhyme for a while longer and then someone, I don't recall if it was me or them, came upon a bright idea...

We'll build a fence (*We'll build a fence!*) C D
As a defence (*As a defence!*) C D
It's common sense (*It's common sense!*) C D
Let us immediately commence G Em
To build a fence (*To build a fence!*) C D
We'll make it immense (*W m i i!*) C D
That way we can let this beautiful tree C D
Die with dignity G