



BIRMINGHAM TREEPEOPLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

BIRMINGHAM ROOTS



Planting, protecting, and promoting trees and the urban forest in and around Birmingham.

Monthly Newsletter, Birmingham Roots, Issue 01, 20/07/23

BIRMINGHAM ROOTS

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This BTP newsletter, Birmingham Roots, is a monthly informative newsletter for our emailing list, and is also available to download on the Newsletter page as one of our blog (Shade of The Canopy) subsections. The fortnightly flyer, The Droplet, is also available.

Website: www.birminghamtreepeople.org.uk | Facebook: /birminghamtreepeople

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our first newsletter for urban forest volunteers in Birmingham. We are really pleased to have Katy Hawkins join us as our new Engagement Officer, and Charley McDermott as our new Communications Officer. This is a big step for Birmingham TreePeople, that will enable us to plant more trees, work with new people to raise awareness, and protect more of Birmingham's trees. We have the second Level 2 Arboriculture course currently running, and we are about to undertake a part of a nationwide iTree survey, where the volunteers will survey 450 random plots. Lots to do!



**TONIA CLARK | CHAIR
BIRMINGHAM TREEPEOPLE**



WEATHER WARNING!

Don't forget to water your plants – and trees! – during the hot weather. Here are our top tips for watering your trees to keep them healthy:

- ✓ Check the soil moisture regularly. You can do this by sticking your finger into the soil a few inches. If the soil is dry to the touch, it's time to water. Water deeply and infrequently.
- ✓ Water in the early morning or evening. This will help prevent the water from evaporating quickly.
- ✓ Water the soil, not the leaves. The leaves don't need water as much as the roots do, and watering the leaves can spread disease.
- ✓ Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation system. These methods deliver water slowly and evenly, which helps prevent runoff.
- ✓ Mulch around the tree – mulch helps to retain moisture in the soil and suppress weeds.

If you can think of any other tips and tricks for looking after your trees (plants and shrubs too), contact us via social media or email us at info@birminghamtreepeople.org, especially if you're interested in getting involved in one of our activities.

MAPPING THE TREE TRAILS IS A WALK IN THE PARK

Tonia Clark and Deanne Brettle – with a little help from Ian McDermott – have been working on mapping the friends of the parks Handsowrth Park tree trail, which is now complete and has been added to our list of plotted trails, using TreePlotter software, recording areas and sites around the city.

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Handsworth Park during the plotting

Trees can change rather quickly; they can be eaten by pests, die from diseases, moved to a new location or an old tree can be taken down. That's why the TreePlotter software comes in handy, by recording and altering the data with ease of access, to keep our records of trees updated.

BTP want to make sure the trails are inclusive of the many varieties of native and rare trees within the parks, so that 'Pokémon Go for trees' is as fun (and accurate) as it can be for friends, family, and children – people of all ages!

Thank you to Deanne Brettle for plotting these tree trails with the other trustees' assistance, and making sure the trails are species inclusive for everyone to learn as much as they can about trees.

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Ian McDermott showing Tonia Clark the next tree to be plotted on the map, so Deanne Brettle could plot them using TreePlotter.

LET'S TALK ABOUT TREES: HOW DID IT GO?



BTP Trustees Steve Watson and Julianne Statham, with one of our newest volunteers, Dr. Delightful

This is the first time that BTP have attempted a community engagement outreach like this event, a year after we organised a fruit orchard planting in the same location; we were welcome back to Birmingham Central Mosque, on Monday 26th June, with open and hospitable arms. This Mosque was opened in the 1970's, and Birmingham's street tree planting programme is the oldest in the UK, dating back to the 1870's; we want to bridge cultures and build relations, spanning decades... so let's talk about trees.

After the initial setup, the day kicked off immediately with the arrival of Ivy House School pupils and staff, creating the vibrant and intrigued atmosphere that we surely hoped for. Some of our BTP Trustees and Staff – Simon, Deb, Mac, Justine, Julianne, Steve and Katy – worked hard to give the community

precious knowledge about trees, leading to several interests in volunteering with us in the near future.

Mac and Justine gave a joint introduction and throughout the day gave interesting talks; Steve gave a talk on wood rings and tree dating, and there was much interest in the displays (especially the cones!) in the community meeting room. It was an overall thrilling and busy experience, and many people learned facts about trees that they didn't know the day before. You learn something new every day – why shouldn't it be about trees?

Many thanks to the staff from the Mosque who made us feel at home, and we want to humbly thank every individual who visited; the community, the National Trust attendees, Cllr Sam Forsyth (Quinton), and Helen Harvey from BOSF.

Photographs provided by Justine Marklew and Ian McDermott with permission from Birmingham Central Mosque.



One of the BTP trustees who gave a talk, Ian McDermott, at Birmingham Central Mosque for Let's talk about trees

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ITREE ECO: FIRST PRACTICAL TRAINING SESSION

To kickstart the July white rabbit, the iTree Eco survey that Birmingham TreePeople are undertaking (in conjunction with Treeconomics, Barton Hyett Associates Ltd and Forest Research), had its first surveying training session with the volunteers at Winterbourne House and Gardens. Over one hundred people have signed up to be a part of this nationwide survey, that will be the largest of its kind when it is completed in December.

One of Birmingham TreePeople's trustees, trainer and lecturer Ian McDermott delivered the practical seminar on how to sample the plots correctly and accurately within the survey. There are 450 sample plots in Birmingham that the citizen science lead project will be taking data from, for us to find out exactly where we need to work in terms of priority. Ben from Treeconomics, who are leading the survey, assisted Ian during the seminar to help the volunteers measure and record the data.



Volunteers at the practical training session

The session was a resounding success with the expert-lead teams and the enthusiastic volunteers – this imperative and important survey, using the iTree Eco software, will change and innovate the way councils and organisations are able to work with trees to increase canopy cover, reduce urban heating, help stormwater drainage, improve air quality, and more crucial factors. This is just another step on the path to making Birmingham greener and reduce the carbon footprint.

We look forward to the next one! Thank you to Ian and Ben for delivering the training and continuing to imbue volunteers with knowledge.

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Volunteers taking the pre-class with Ian before doing the practical session work in the garden