

Birmingham TreePeople

Monthly Newsletter

Birmingham Roots



Planting, protecting, and promoting trees and the urban forest.

Birmingham Roots, Issue 03, 20/09/23



Birmingham Roots

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Engagement Officer, Katy Hawkins, attended the games on behalf of BTP, and we also made an appearance at the MAC.

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BTP have employed TreePlotter to plan proposed planting sites in key priority wards, preparing for the upcoming planting season.

Features

A Word from The Chair



Tonia Clark
BTP Chair

Some words from the Chair about the current L2 Arb course.

The Level 2 Arboriculture students are currently studying Biology. We've looked at taxonomy and nomenclature, which could be a bit of a dry start to this module, but it's interesting. We have been looking at binomial scientific names; these are normally in Latin and made up of the Genus and the specific epithet. They are italicised and the genus has a capital letter.

For example, *Quercus* (the genus) *ilex* (specific epithet) is the Holm Oak or Holly Oak. Its leaves look like the leaves of holly, so it's named after the holly tree, whose binomial name is *Ilex aquifolium*.

The scientific, Latin name, or binomial gives clues about a tree and what it looks like, how it grows, or even where it's from. You don't need to know any Latin, as many English words come from Latin, and so you can take a guess. *Quercus rubra* - we know from the genus that it's an oak, but the *rubra*? Think of rubies. They're red, so this is the Red Oak. *Salix caprea* - this is a willow - the *Salix* gave its name to salicylic acid, which is commonly known as aspirin. And *caprea*? Well, think of Capricorn - it's a goat, so this is the goat willow.

If you're interested, there are books like 'Plant Names Simplified' by Johnson, Smith and Stockdale, or plenty of internet sites.

Green Champions

A Call to Action

As we approach the seed gathering and tree planting season, BTP have been preparing to enter two initial priority wards - Nechells, where we have previously worked with two of our volunteers in conjunction with The Woodland Trust, and also Newtown, where the newly proposed TreePlotter maps are available (see page 4) - and we would like to ask our **volunteers** and any **Green Champions** in and around that area to get in touch with us.

We would like to work and engage with local residential, faith, school, mental health, and other community groups within those areas, to increase the awareness and understanding of the benefits of trees. As part of our planting strategy, the community will play a large part, as our Engagement and Communications Officers are working diligently to promote trees and forge lasting networking bonds with groups in our target areas. Do *you* want to get involved?

Click the link

[here](#)



to contact us!

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Where have we been?

Woodland Games

The Woodland Games, taking place in Stirchley and hosted by Hipkiss and Graney who are two local community artists, is “Stirchley’s ecological answer to the Olympics! A fully solar powered nature, art, and games festival!”



Katy Hawkins, Engagement Officer for BTP, attended the games.

The games consist of a starting precession, depicted above, and multiple homemade games (like the catapult for example), as the two artists pour their heart and soul into the props to raise community spirit, and that’s why Katy from BTP attended the games on our behalf, to raise awareness of trees through unique, community games taking place within nature.

If you are interested in taking part in these games next time, follow The Woodland Games on their [Instagram](#) profile, so you don’t miss their updates and posts.



[Brumside Community Radio](#) is a non-profit, DAB, community radio station in Birmingham, based in King’s Heath. Tune in for local news.

Mac’s Big Green Weekender

The Midlands Arts Centre, situated next to Cannon Hill Park in Moseley, held a family-orientated event that celebrated innovation towards our shared future on this planet, supporting climate action, sustainability, and all things green.

BTP had our stand in a busy hub, in conjunction with BOSF, to promote tree planting, surveying, learning and collaboration. Many interested community members visited the stand throughout the day, conversing with fervour with the Trustees and Communications Officer, and several of our dedicated volunteers came to help us - thank you Val, Karen, and Rachel.

Other devoted groups in attendance were Compost Culture, Birmingham Connected, Plastic Free Moseley & Kings Heath, amongst many others, and for this Family Day there were a multitude of activities and workshops throughout the day.

Thank you [MAC](#), our Trustees, Deb from [BOSF](#), our volunteers, and the wonderful community.



Simon Needle, BTP Trustee, set up this stand with Debbie of BOSF, and was smiling and ready for a big day at Big Green Sunday.

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TreePlotter: Tree Planting Strategy

As part of the recently published [Urban Forest Master Plan](#) (UFMP), Birmingham TreePeople (BTP) have presently turned their attention to their tree planting strategy, which is a key priority for the UFMP and the upcoming [planting](#) season. Tree equity has been propelled to the forefront of our tree planting efforts, to target priority wards with high deprivation and low canopy cover. To help engage the residents and ensure the successful establishment of trees, TreePlotter has been employed to easily record and alter the propositioned locations, and once the maps are finalised more can and will be added in the future.

These are the proposed planting spots that BTP are

undertaking during the upcoming planting season: [Planting Sites: Newtown.](#)

As part of our tree planting strategy, we are targeting several priority wards to increase the canopy cover and greenspace, and in using TreePlotter we can accurately plot the trees proposed for those areas, as well as alter the data over time.

If you have anything to contribute, you are keen to get involved in the tree planting, or have any species suggestions, please contact us at:

info@birminghamtreepeople.org.uk



A screenshot of multiple proposed planting plots (see the grey circles), in one of our target priority wards, Newtown, Birmingham.

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