

# Birmingham TreePeople

Planting, Protecting, & Promoting Trees & The Urban Forest

## Monthly Newsletter



## Tree Week 2023

Issue 05, 20/11/23

# Birmingham Roots



Nechells

Hodge Hill

Family

Tree Walks

Newtown

Activities

Tea

Highters Heath

Community

Celebrating Trees  
27<sup>th</sup> Nov - 10<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Local tree planting



# Birmingham Roots

## Contents

### 2 Features: A Word from The Chair | Upcoming Events

Our Chair's featured words on Tree Week coming up soon, and a reminder of our next training session in December with [Highbury Park Friends](#).

### 3 Where have we been? [Manor Park Farm](#)

We held a joint free training session on how to prune orchard trees this month in Northfield, alongside the Friends group.

### 4 It's Almost Tree Week

As a part of the wider Urban Forest Accelerator project, we have been fostering relations in these wards, as we prepare for the upcoming tree planting for Tree Week in five different areas.

### 5 It's Almost Tree Week: Continued

Katy has been helping with some fantastic events in Nechells with the [POD](#), and more recently Hodge Hill, alongside [Friends of Hodge Hill Common](#).

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# Features

## A Word from The Chair



**Tonia Clark**

It's tree planting season, and we're busy planning plantings in Nechells, Hodge Hill and Bromford under one grant, and Newtown and Highters Heath under another this Winter. We've moved away from planting small trees (known as whips), to planting bigger, semi-mature to mature trees. This is because the whips often get damaged and don't grow to maturity, so planting bigger trees means they are more likely to establish successfully. They'll sequester more carbon as they start to thicken up, and they'll provide all the benefits we get from trees much earlier, like shade, cooling, air cleaning, flood mitigation and of course, beauty. Let us know if you'd like to get involved.

## Upcoming Events

Our next training session will be on Saturday 16th December, 10am until 12pm. We will be learning more about conifer identification at Highbury Park, with [Highbury Park Friends](#).

We'll meet at the Shutcock Lane car park. The What Three Words for the car park are ///into.under.having.

These events are open to all, so please let others know if you think they will be interested, and bring your friends and family. This event will be outdoors and on uneven terrain, so please dress appropriately.

Our last training session, held at Manor Park Farm in Northfield alongside the Friends, was a spectacular, well-attended session about [orchard pruning](#). See more on page 3.

**Click the link**

[here](#)



**to contact us!**

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# Where have we been?

## Manor Park Farm



Nina Griffiths - BTP Trustee in charge of Street Trees, and member of the Friends of Manor Farm Park, leads the orchard pruning volunteers in the free training session.



A lesson here during orchard pruning training: how not to mulch!

**Manor Park Farm's** volunteering session had a wonderful turnout. BTP met on what turned out to be a pleasant morning in Manor Park Farm, at the invitation of their friends group. We had been asked to lend a hand in the orchard, with the pruning of some trees and removal of some dead ones.

The day was led by BTP stalwart and Trustee Nina Griffiths, who talked the group through the day's activities, and supplied everyone with a work plan for the day, very impressive. A dozen TreePeople, including two new attendees, soon got stuck into the work and within a couple of hours we had finished! This provided the opportunity to walk back through the park, to enjoy the splendid tree collection, followed by coffee and cake at the end - a great end to a great day out.

By Ian McDermott

If you'd like to join Manor Park Farm Friends for one of their regular volunteering sessions caring for the park, the remaining 2023 sessions are on 3rd and 16th December. [Contact them](#) for more details. They meet in the carpark at 10.30, but under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.



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# It's Almost Tree Week

Now that planting season is upon us and **Tree Week** approaches, Birmingham TreePeople are focusing their attention on four low-canopy cover wards in Birmingham, throughout the last week of November and the first week of December. These wards are **Nechells**, **Bromford** and **Hodge Hill** (under the Heritage Fund grant for the UFA project), and **Newtown** and **Highters Heath** (under the Trees for Cities grant).

[If you missed the biweekly flyer, click here to find out what Katy has been doing in Nechells recently!](#)

Newtown is due to have over fifty new semi-mature trees for example, whilst Highters Heath is a smaller area of eight trees, due to it being a smaller planting area. We are taking into consideration species for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, air pollution reduction, and stormwater drainage and protection.



Katy Hawkins working with Nechells POD, 2nd Nov, identifying species during a Community Tree Walk.

Katy hosted a creative Tree Walk with Lisa and Genny of Friends of Hodge Hill Common last weekend.

**Mindfulness, Creativity and Trees**

Join us for a guided tree walk

Hosted by Lisa Hodge  
(Friends of Hodge Hill Common)  
& Katy Hawkins  
(Birmingham Tree People)

Appreciating and responding to trees on & near Hodge Hill Common

- \*Mindful grounding activities
- \*Meeting some special trees
- \*Learning about tree names, symbolism, & uses
- \*Trying some creative responses to trees

Meet outside  
no. 80 Hodge Hill  
Common

**Saturday 18th  
November,  
2.00-3.30pm**

Followed by Tea, Cake & Samosas

and a discussion about new trees soon to be planted nearby (part of a tree planting initiative led by Birmingham Tree People)



To raise awareness of the myriad benefits of existing and future trees, parks, and green spaces, we are currently seeking local figures, [Green Champions](#), and environmental or wellbeing groups to plant with us. If you are interested in the upcoming planting and Tree Week celebrations, please do not hesitate to contact us and get involved.

Our charity wants to cultivate community relationships, with our vast and growing network of [urban forest volunteers](#), to carry forward residential involvement in specific ward-level planting and maintenance, but also draw attention to the health and welfare aspect – through the exploration of [social prescribing](#) – that nature provides us.

The new trees being planted in these areas will contribute towards Birmingham's long-term goals for increasing canopy cover under the [Urban Forest Master Plan](#), as well as the Urban Forest Accelerator. Our great [Tree City](#) keeps growing and giving every day, through a nurturing, mutual relationship with nature. This is what makes Birmingham beautiful.

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# It's Almost Tree Week: Continued



The large group of mindful walkers on the Tree Walk.

The group of adults and children went back to Genny's house, member of the Friends group, who kindly hosted everyone with leafy teas, coffee, cake, and samosas, whilst Katy discussed the local planting initiative with the residents, talking about the vibrant redwoods due to be planted in the area.

We wanted to thank all those who attended the **Tree Walk** and becoming a part of nature, participating within the wider **Urban Forest Accelerator** project that will increase the cities canopy cover. A rather huge thanks to **Katy** from BTP and **Lisa, Genny**, and other members of the **Friends of Hodge Hill Common** for a warm, welcoming, riveting day. We look forward to the next one, and **planting trees in Hodge Hill!**

The Tree Walk on the 18<sup>th</sup> saw us teaming up with [Friends of Hodge Hill Common](#), where Katy, Lisa and Genny lead an enthusiastic and diverse group of local residents around the Common.

We discovered mushroom rings, discussed the silver birch's 'hisstling' (thank you Lisa) sounds, the defensive adaptation of holly's spiky leaves, took photos and talked about the vibrancy of colour in the autumn leaves, one walker recalled the planting fifty years ago of the golden teardrop hornbeams, we wrote a group poem about the unusual shapes of nature we took notice of, formed a ring and chanted for the revival of the ash trees due to dieback and the borer like rainmaker ceremonies of old, felt the textured leaf of an elm, and truly connected creatively with the nature on our urban doorsteps.



"Hornbeam leaves look like McCoy's crisps."

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