

Birmingham TreePeople

Planting, Protecting, & Promoting Trees & The Urban Forest

Monthly Newsletter

Christmas Edition



Issue 06, 20/12/23

Tree Week 2023

Birmingham Roots

Read all about our many community planting sessions during National Tree Week!



We have been cultivating relationships in our priority wards to plant trees with the residents! Read about how we did this in Bromford, Hodge Hill, Highters Heath, Nechells, and Newtown for National Tree Week this year.



Birmingham Roots

Christmas Edition

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We held a delightful planting ceremony to welcome a sweetgum, alongside the Friends of Hodge Hill Common, delivered by Treecycle, 2nd December.

4 Tree Week 2023: Highters Heath

BTP also worked with Highters Heath Community School and the Friends of Daisy Farm Park to plant ginkgo trees, 4th December.

5 Tree Week 2023: Nechells

Nechells POD have worked with us to rally the community for two planting days at Bloomsbury Street and Vauxhall Road, 9th and 18th December respectively.

6 Tree Week 2023: Nechells Continued

We also held planting days on 13th for Windsor Place (and Vauxhall Place), and 17th December for the Home and Queens Towers, alongside the residents.

7 Tree Week 2023: Bromford

The final community planting day took place on 19th December with Open Door.

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Features

A Word from The Chair



Tonia Clark

“We’ve been busy planting trees throughout December in Nechells, Bromford, Hodge Hill, Newtown, and Highters Heath. We involved local people on a scale which hasn’t been done before within Birmingham.

I must express my huge thanks to Katy and Charley, our workers who have undertaken the community engagement and communications. The funding for the overall projects came from the Trees Call to Action Fund, developed by Defra, in partnership with the Forestry Commission, and is being delivered by the Heritage Fund, One Tree Planted, and Trees for Cities.

Additionally, a huge thanks to Mac, Simon, and Andy Allison (BCC), who ordered the trees, liaised with contractors, and supervised plantings. Thank you, Steve and Julianne, for checking the trees at the depot and attending the plantings.

We also had a very successful conifer identification session this month at Highbury Park, alongside the Friends group. We discovered a rare weeping spruce, hidden between the Giant Redwoods. Definitely worth a visit!”

Recent Events

Tonia was also recently at the [Eden Project Communities](#) conference, where she gave a presentation on behalf of BTP. Here is a rundown of the day:

Tonia Clark, BTP Chair, ran a fun and engaging workshop on everything from tree identification to [tree care](#).

Equipped with valuable knowledge, they were gifted a tree whip by Jeff Grant, from [West Midlands Combined Authority](#), to add to the West Midlands Virtual Forest.

Katy Wade, from [National Trust in the Midlands](#), was attending on behalf of the Blossom Project. Caroline Hutton, representing [Social Farms & Gardens](#), and [Martineau Gardens](#), was also in attendance.

Donald Emanuel joined from [Coventry Urban Eden](#), who are doing fantastic work in their part of the West Midlands, promoting city green space. Suriya Arblaster, from Ways for Wellbeing, as well as Dilwara Begum from the [Sharing Library](#), were both present.

We wanted to thank the [Eden Project](#) for inviting Tonia to give a talk for the TreePeople, the welcoming, nature-loving atmosphere, and [Thinktank](#), who hosted and provided the space.

Click the link

[here](#)



to contact us!

Tree Week 2023: Hodge Hill



Lisa Hodge, FOHHC, hosting a mindful, welcoming ceremony for the new liquidambar for Hodge Hill, alongside the large group of eager onlookers, including Katy, Simon, and Genny.

The event garnered many members of the friends group, members of BTP, and the general public. We pulled together to have a go at digging the planting hole, but the children really got stuck in! Lisa Hodge welcomed the tree with a mindful welcoming ceremony with the group, becoming one with the tree. After which the children showed us old'ens how it's done by backfilling the hole!

Katy Hawkins gave an informative and creative talk about the benefits and characteristics of the liquidambar, passing a leaf around for everyone to smell the sweet scent of the sweet gum. She ended by giving everyone a scroll to remember to come back and water the tree. Watering our trees, taking care of them, is just as important as planting them. We hope that Hodge Hill enjoys and cares for the new piece of nature on their doorstep.



I DUB THEE: STEVIE SWEET GUM



Thank you to Urfaan and Genny, who organised the refreshments, Katy and Lisa for hosting the ritual, and Simon and Tonia for transporting the tree and equipment. A HUGE thanks to everyone who attended the event; we hope you loved it as much as we did. What a lovely day to remember!

On the 2nd December 2023, the [Friends of Hodge Hill Common](#) and Birmingham TreePeople teamed up to plant a new tree on Coleshill Road. We planted a beautiful semi-mature tree for Tree Week, even though the winter frost had just set in!

[Simon Needle](#) transported the new sweet gum to the planting location using the [Treecycle](#). This is a low emission electric bike that kept the carbon footprint of the tree even lower! BTP and FOHHC spent a sweet and frosty afternoon working together to put a new tree in the ground, that will grow with vivid colours.

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Tree Week 2023: Highters Heath

Despite the soggy weather, the wonderful group of prefects from [Highters Heath Community School](#) came with smiles on their faces, to plant trees with the TreePeople on Maypole Grove on the 4th December.

Charley, the Communications Officer, met the teachers and pupils at the school, enjoying a nice community walk to the planting location. There they met Ian McDermott and Julianne Statham, BTP Trustees, the Woodland Team's Leon and Nick, and Steve Anderson the president of [Friends of Daisy Farm Park](#), ready for planting the new ginkgo trees.

The Whole Team: grubby hand gang!



Girls Team: digging the hole
Boys Team: fixing the stake ties



Mac told the children about the special tree, thought to be extinct but is now planted globally, the Ginkgo Biloba or Pagoda Tree. Splitting into two groups of girls versus boys – because at this age we still have cooties – the teams set about who could plant the tree quicker, but in the end, they were evenly matched! The adults helped the two teams and taught the kids how to plant the trees from hole to stake ties; they were true naturals and grubby from all the hard work when we were finished.

Birmingham TreePeople would like to thank Highters Heath Community School for participating in this tree planting with us, as well as Steve Anderson from Friends of Daisy Farm Park, and of course Mac, Julianne, and the Woodland Team (Leon and Nick) for all the help and fun we had planting trees!



Both teams planting their trees

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Tree Week 2023: Nechells

9th Dec, Bloomsbury

Cllr Majid Mahmood, Katy Hawkins, Simon Needle, a local participant, Councillor Lee Marsham for Nechells, Chantelle and her kids, surrounding one of the new trees they helped plant on Bloomsbury Street with the POD.



We were joined by enthusiastic nature-lovers last Saturday 9th, for our Tree Week planting on Bloomsbury Street. Our BTP team consisted of Simon Needle, Katy Hawkins, and Sue Griffith, who worked with [Nechells POD](#), Lee Marsham, Majid Mahmood, 5 local adults and 6 children to help [Gristwood And Toms](#) plant 8 new trees.

The weather never deterred us! The holes were dug with thanks to G&T, and the local community thoroughly enjoyed the sound enhanced planting ceremony with Cllr Mahmood. The arts and crafts session provided the kids a chance to shine with their artistic, wooden tree-tags and decorations with a Christmas theme.

The POD, Councillor Marsham and Cllr Mahmood have posted some fantastic photos and videos of their own, so if you haven't seen their posts over the weekend, definitely take a peek on their socials! We want to thank each and every high-spirited individual or organisation who helped us get these beautiful trees planted in Nechells. We have taken another step towards a greener Birmingham!

18th Dec, Vauxhall

We planted 6 new trees on the Vauxhall Road estate on the 18th, alongside [Nechells POD](#) and their lovely members, who got stuck right in with the digging!

Two Autumn Purples, two Redwoods, and two Planes have graced the green space in Nechells, thanks to Chantelle Henry from the POD and the wonderful group, as well as Malcolm, Mark, and Steve from the Woodland team.

There were a lot of bricks, but the hard work was worth it, thanks to the joint effort. We also enjoyed some leafy teas and coffee afterwards to warm up. Agatha, a regular POD member, read a beautiful poem she wrote for Christmas to welcome the new trees, and they've also been decorated!

A huge thanks to the Woodland team again for their fantastic support, Chantelle from the POD, Katy of BTP, and Andy of [Birmingham City Council](#) for organising this community planting, and we look forward to more tree walks in the New Year!



The Woodland Team, Nechells POD, and BTP worked together to plant 6 new trees!

Tree Week 2023: Nechells

13th Dec, Windsor

Continued

17th Dec, Towers

After the residents were given the chance to vote between two [tree species](#), the Japonica was chosen to be the newly planted tree on the 13th December, at Windsor Place, Nechells.

Katy Hawkins of BTP, [Birmingham City Council](#)'s Woodland team (Steve and Mark), and Michael from [Sheltered Housing](#), organised this residential tree planting and have worked hard to add this new tree to the growing green space.

Naima, one of the lovely residents at Windsor Place, Nechells, kindly joined us for the [tree planting](#) (thank you!). We all shared some coffee and laughs during the crisp planting morning.

We christened the tree altogether! Jackie Japonica was a suggested name, but we also wanted to name the tree using all our initials. However, there were too many consonants... therefore we decided on **'Windsor'**. Welcome to Nechells, Windsor!

Huge thanks to Michael, Naima, and the Woodland team for all their help, and we look forward to the next one!



Steve and Mark from the Woodland team, Katy and Charley from BTP, and a local resident Naima, all christening the tree!

Katy Hawkins was joined by Munasaif Mohammad, local Tennant Participation Officer, to plant multiple new trees at the site of the Home and Queens Towers in Nechells, alongside some residents.

They were joined by some youthful locals, and the children helped us get the new trees in the ground, and learned a little about the species as they went along!

Thanks to [Gristwood & Toms](#) for coming out over the weekend to help with the tree planting!



Click [here](#) to learn more about tree planting and aftercare.

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Tree Week 2023: Bromford

Hazel, a local Bromford resident, and her newly planted gingko memorial, named Gingko Duck Foot, after the shape of its leaves.



[Katy Hawkins](#), BTP's Engagement Officer, who has worked tirelessly to foster these community relationships, to arrange most of these fantastic planting days, had this to say about the community engaged plantings and National Tree Week 2023: **"It's been a true pleasure to work with amazing communities and folk across Nechells, Bromford, and Hodge Hill, to establish new trees in their neighbourhoods. I'm very grateful for everyone's energy, support, and care. It's been truly exciting; I have so many nice memories of the planting event, with lots of ceremonial sprinkles of soil, naming the trees after people who've passed - significant, local people - dressing the trees with tinsel and decorations, sharing moving poems, playing music, and lots of impromptu imitations of trees! Thanks to every single person, and the supporting planting teams, for making it a success. I am looking forward to getting to know the trees as they grow, and continuing to work with communities and local people we've met along the way.**

On the 19th of December, we were joined by a myriad of organisations and local residents, for a large tree-planting day in Bromford. It was a warm and welcome occasion, even though it's Winter now, as we dug and planted trees alongside [BCC's Woodland Team](#) and a few Tree Officers, [Open Door](#), and [The Friends of Hodge Hill](#). Our wonderful BTP team consisted of Katy, Julianne, and Steve.

In the spirit and ongoing theme of welcoming ceremonies, focusing on mindfulness and the connection between us and nature, the tree was lowered with the aid of instruments. They were also delicately decorated for Christmas, to celebrate together for our last community planting day for 2023. **Well done everybody!**

Julianne Statham, our newest BTP Trustee, said: **"It was a lovely occasion. We all wanted to sing a song to welcome the new tree, but we couldn't think of one! I'm going to try to find one before our next tree planting ceremony."** So, if anyone has any good ditties concerning trees and nature, please [let us know](#) or [email](#)!

Don't forget to check out our social media platforms (links at the bottom of each page) for more posts and stories about our special planting days. All our partners have shared their own images and perspectives on the planting days, and our [blog](#) is also regularly updated with articles and information about events and workshops. See you all next year!

Jo (FOHHC), Steve (BTP), Hazel, Katy (BTP), Soonue, Lisa (FOHHC), Sam, Rev Barnett, Cath (OpenDoor), Leon (BCC), and Paul... almost the full team with a newly planted - and decorated - tree!



Thank you to every urban forest volunteer who helped us with our many projects this year!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM ALL OF US AT BIRMINGHAM TREEPEOPLE

We look forward to seeing you all next year!

Joint training session with Highbury Park Friends, on conifer identification, for a Christmas theme!

HIGHBURY
PARK
Friends

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