

Birmingham TreePeople

Planting, Protecting, & Promoting Trees & The Urban Forest

Monthly Newsletter



EARTH DAY 2024

Issue 10, 22/04/24

Birmingham Roots

Mac hosted the L2 Tree Inspection in Handsworth Park, where the unveiling of Benjamin Zephaniah's tribute memorial at Sons of Rest took place this month, where our Chair was in attendance.

Trees Please?



This month's Spring newsletter includes updates on our free and paid training sessions, tree walks with partners, competitions for family and children, events and celebrations, street tree surveying, and much more!



Birmingham Roots



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Our Chair's featured words on buds for the Springtime, and a list of some upcoming events including our free training, the Urban Tree Festival, and Tree Cities of the World Conference.

3 Easter Tree Walk

Steve Watson is also part of the Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir, and he led an Easter tree walk around the reservoir in a joint session.

4 Street Tree Survey: Nechells

Nina Griffiths and the street tree survey volunteers have been out once again, this time in another priority ward where we planted trees last year, Nechells, on 7th April.

5 Watering Cans

Katy Hawkins held another session with Nechells POD on 17th April, with family and children, decorating watering cans to encourage the watering on the newly planted trees.

6 Weoley Castle Earth Day | Martineu Gardens' Spring Event

Tonia Clark and Julianne Statham represented BTP at the Earth Day celebrations of 2024 on 20th April, at Weoley Castle. Steve Watson and Katy Hawkins also had a stand at Martineu's Easter festivities on the same day!

7 L2 Arboriculture Tree Inspection

Mac took the L2 class out to finish their module on tree inspection, right in the middle of Handsworth Park, where the new mural for Benjamin Zephaniah has been revealed.

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Features

A Word from The Chair



Tonia Clark
BTP Chair

In the cold winds, it has felt like winter again, but do look out for flowers on trees. Some of them are tiny, green, and easy to miss.

I found out the other day that some buds on trees become leaves, and some become flowers. It is obvious once you know it, but look at a tree in bud, and see if you can work out which are which!

We launched the Tree Tales in January, and we need more submissions! Please send us your stories, photos, or anything creative that represents a time in your life where nature and trees meant something to you, and the stories will go onto the [Tree Tales page](#) on our website as an anthology.



Upcoming Events

Free Training Sessions

Topics/locations TBC:

- 18th May | In-person
- 15th June | Online



Urban Tree Festival

11th - 19th May 2024

Katy Hawkins, our Engagement Officer, will be attending the Urban Tree Festival this year, on 16th May, with other representatives of the Urban Forest Accelerator (UFA) team (from [National Trust](#), [Woodland Trust](#), and [Birmingham City Council](#)).

Tree Cities of the World Conference

[Trees for Cities](#) are teaming up with us at BTP to host the first [TCotW](#) conference in this country, 11th - 12th June, to celebrate Birmingham being the first in the UK to become a global tree city.

Our Trustees are already working hard to plan and organise the conference with T4C representatives, where the second day will focus on guest speakers, panel discussions, workshops, tree walks, and much more.



WOODLAND TRUST

Birmingham City Council

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Easter Tree Walk

Steve Watson leading a nature walk around Edgbaston Reservoir with the friend group.



and is an early part of the development of this part of the city. The LNR has five distinct plantation areas including a wetland. The spring is rapidly developing, but still cunningly disguising the identity of the trees.

Help was on hand from a brilliant, teenage forester who knew his stuff! The trees at the LNR are mostly traditional deciduous and provide a useful learning resource.

Thank you to everyone who came along for Steve Watson's walk, we are already looking forward to the next!

Steve showing the nature walkers this particularly fascinating tree! Do you know what species it is?

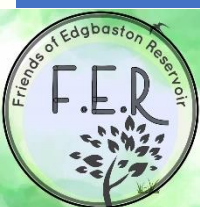


Steve Watson, one of our Trustees, is also a Trustee and member of several other groups around Birmingham, and one of them is the Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir.

About 20 people came along to the nature walk around Edgbaston Reservoir, with Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir, on Saturday 30th March for Easter.

Lovely sunny day, the group spotted flora, fauna and funga on the interesting north side of the Local Nature Reserve.

The Reservoir has a relatively recent history ...



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Street Tree Survey: Nechells

Nina Griffiths, BTP Trustee for [Street Trees](#), held another survey session on Sunday 7th April.

Not allowing Storm Kathleen to blow in and ruin our entire day, Nina and the other surveyors came for the morning session and surveyed the 10 trees in the area that were on the list (there were more, but a couple were absent, and another replanted, which is recorded using [TreePlotter](#)).

The surveyors – Julianne, Charley, Alex, and Jeevan – split into two teams to get the job done. Nina trained Jeevan on-the-ground, having joined us that day as a new surveyor, and on such a windy day her presence was warmly welcomed!

Alex and Julianne fixing the unstable and fallen posts.



When the volunteers had some trouble locating certain trees (that proved to be absent), Nina stepped in to save them by demonstrating the use of TreePlotter to help the team locate the right tree that matched our list of street trees.

The group found an interesting street tree, that had had its planting hole stolen by another seed, had grown rapidly, and was thus choking the growth of the other, intended street tree.

Work hard and play hard, the volunteers had some fun during the surveying by partaking in Julianne's 'Ministry of Silly Walks', where Charley and Alex demonstrated their meter steps for measuring distances in an uphill photoshoot...

Thank you to the volunteers and to Nina; we have 3,000 trees to survey, so please let us know if you'd like to [get involved!](#)



Nina training Jeevan on street tree surveying trees in Nechells, not letting storm Kathleen deter them!

The Ministry of Silly Walks!



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Watering Cans



The kids enjoying themselves at the POD with Katy & Charley, for the watering can decoration session!

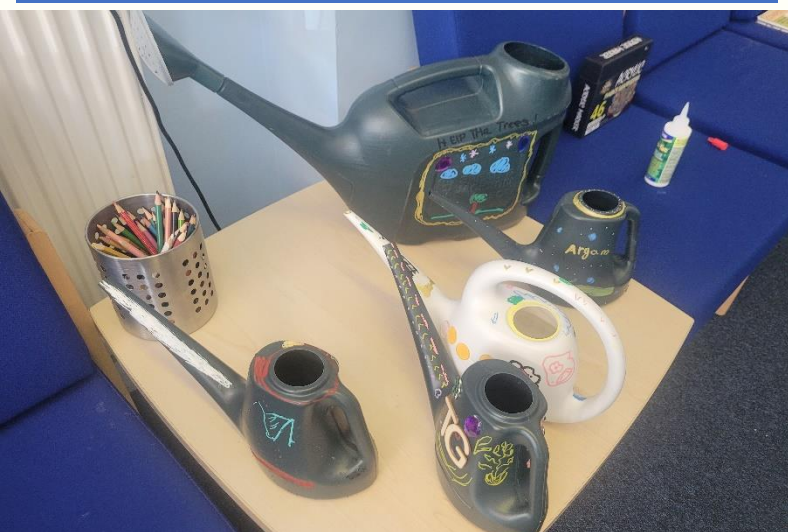


BTP want to encourage community ownership of trees, so once the watering cans were completed, the group set off down the road to visit the trees in question and give them some TLC. We all took turns to water the trees, explaining why we use watering bags (do you know what benefits they have?), and trying not to get caught in the water fight in the sunshine!

Thank you to Nechells POD for working with us again to create a wonderful, artistic session, bringing nature and our youth together, ensuring the lasting care of the community-planted trees around Nechells. Now that it's Springtime...

We held another creative arts and crafts session at [Nechells POD](#) Wednesday 17th April, decorating watering cans to promote the aftercare and watering of the newly planted local trees.

Katy Hawkins, Engagement Officer, hosted this with a theme in mind: each of the three tables were dedicated to one of the new tree species on Bloomsbury Road, Hop Hornbeam, Sweet Gum, and American Ash. The children decorated their cans with these as prompts, using the wooden letters and acrylic pens to write their names and drawings on the white and green cans.



Some of the cans, the large one was bought along by the young participant, who said it belonged to her brother.



Katy bought along several books, print offs, and visual prompts for the children and their designs.

What have some of the Trustees been up to?

Weoley Castle Earth Day



Trustees Tonia and Lawrence, and urban forest volunteer Rachel entertaining passers-by about BTP!

Martineau Gardens' Spring Event

Steve Watson (Trustee) is also a member of [Martineau Gardens](#), that's why he and Katy Hawkins, our Engagement Officer, attended their [Spring festivities](#) on the 20th April. On a bright, sunny day, hordes of people from all over Birmingham and beyond enjoyed a jamboree of events, including Morris Dancing, bands, and fete games.

The many stalls were diverse, presenting offers from well-being support to tree orientated displays from BTP. Katy provided some talks and helped arrange arts and crafts. Kids could colour in tree cookies, which proved very popular, and adults enjoy learning about tree rings, tree cones, and cerebral books.

Thank you to Martineau for providing space for us amongst the fantastic volunteer groups that attended, and for a wonderful Spring day.

Tonia Clark, BTP Chair, Lawrence Weston our newest Trustee, and Julianne Statham, Trustee for Treemembrance, attended the [Earth Day celebrations](#) (and Earth Month throughout April) at [Weoley Castle](#) again this year, on Saturday 20th April (for Earth Day on 22nd April).

To celebrate Earth Month and Day, many groups and activists from in and around Birmingham attended the celebration in Weoley Castle Square, to draw attention the importance of our planet, with a focus on removing plastics this year. Do you have any tips on reusing or recycling plastics in your household?

The weather was rather lovely, and was made brighter by extra helping hands belonging to Rachel, one of our [urban forest volunteers](#)! We talked to many people about what we do at BTP, encouraging people to become part of their urban forest, as well as many educational leaflets and display items.

We want to thank the organisers at Weoley Castle for organising another great Earth Day celebration!

Tree cookie painting with Katy at the Spring Event.



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L2 Arboriculture Tree Inspection

Ian McDermott, BTP Trainer, took the [L2 Arboriculture](#) class out for their final session on Tree Identification on 13th April. He hosted the class in Handsworth Park, where the Sons of Rest has recently received a [new tribute memorial](#) to Benjamin Zephaniah, painted by Bunny Bread.

This is the final class of their tree surveying module, which is an optional add-on to enhance the value of the course by delivering some hands-on field training. There are six modules in the course, and these are detailed on the [website](#). Having completed three of these, the students are now well over halfway through.

After spending a while looking at a large tree in depth, that had recently failed in order to calibrate the survey techniques, the students were asked to



Sonja, Emma, Nina, and Steve (and Gig, not pictured) inspecting trees in Handsworth Park.

survey, record, and detail ten large plane trees at the rear of the leisure centre. From this, they were asked to identify possible hazards, quantify the risk, and make recommendations for safety works.

The course is accredited and available to anyone with a genuine interest in tree management, and enough time to commit to a serious programme of study.

The team thoroughly enjoyed learning how to inspect trees in a place filled with so much cultural and artistic heritage, enhancing the learning experience, and engaging with their environment. Well done to everyone in the group!



Last year in March 2023, [Ladywood Health and Community Centre](#) acquired four flowering trees from the [National Trust](#), a legacy from the Commonwealth games. [Patchwork Meadow](#) planted the trees with BTP's help, along with wildflowers, in the raised beds in the grounds of Truro Tower on St Vincent Street. It is close to the famous statue of Blondin, who tightrope walked across the nearby Edgbaston Reservoir. Sadly, only one tree survived. Kindly enough, NT supplied three replacement trees! Two members of staff from [Shakespeare Martineau](#), Jakob and Assissa, took a couple of hours off on Wednesday 27th March 2024 to help plant the replacements, with Alison from Patchwork Meadow and Steve Watson from BTP.



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Let's Water Our Trees!

To celebrate Earth Month and Earth day (April, 22nd), we want encourage the watering of newly planted, young trees around Birmingham! Take charge of your local trees by watering them alongside other members of the community, and the trees will give back to the urban environment as they grow and establish.



EARTH DAY 2024

Our session with Nechells POD showed the children how to water the trees with a gator bag attached, and what the benefits of water bags and pipes are.

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