

**Hello TreePeople,**

Here is the 20th edition of Birmingham Roots, our monthly newsletter! Find out about some past and future events!

## **Grafting Workshops**

Lawrence Weston, the Trustee in charge of the new Orchard Programme, has conducted five incredible grafting workshops in South Birmingham last month, after launching the project. We were joined by Minworth Action Projects at the Minworth workshops, who we recently planted a new orchard with, and continuing that work, these grafting sessions are designed to give local volunteers the knowledge they need to look after the community's trees.



We ran workshops at Glebe Farm Library, Sheldon Country Park, and St George's Church Minworth, where each session was well-attended by keen grafters of all ages! Let us know if you'd like us to facilitate a grafting workshop near you. Thank you to everyone who came to the sessions, and especially Frank P Matthews for sponsoring our Orchard Programme, allowing these upskilling workshops to happen.

## **NDSU & UKSPF Funding Fair**

Thank you Birmingham City Council for inviting us to The Legacy Centre of Excellence in Newtown for your Funding Fair, funded by UK Government, UK Shared Prosperity Fund (who sponsored us at BTP),



We had a fantastic day listening to interesting speeches, an interpretive dance performance, and networking with other amazing groups in Birmingham, spreading the local word of The Zephaniah Forest and Magic Cat Publishing's new illustrative version of Benjamin's famous Trees Please, called Leave the Trees Please. We also showed visitors our current work on TreePlotter: The Zephaniah Poetree Trail. It was wonderful to see so many photos from the planting of the orchard as part of the background slideshow (pictured is Keith, Legacy CEO)!

### **The Zephaniah Poetree Trail Launch**

Calling all winning poets and Benjamin Zephaniah enthusiasts –

SATURDAY 19TH APRIL 2025 | 12:00PM – 15:00PM | THE ZEPHANIAH FOREST: TREES PLEASE, POETRY PLEASE? THE ZEPHANIAH POETREE TRAIL LAUNCH

The Zephaniah Forest tree planting is complete! In an ultimate ceremony in memory of Benjamin Zephaniah, the winning poets of Trees Please, Poetry Please? will adorn the 65 trees with the 65 poems to create a physical Zephaniah Poetree Trail. This is addition to the poems being documented online using TreePlotter (where we log and create Tree Trails and survey data), and eventually on the website with text and image updates of each tree.

We will meet in Burbury Park, Newtown, at the first Farm Street entrance, at midday on 19th April – one week after Benjamin Zephaniah Day 12th April – to celebrate the intermingling of nature and arts, dressing Benjamin's trees with beautiful dedicated poetree. We'll begin from the first tree that was planted by Qian Zephaniah, through to the final 65th tree planted by his family, friends, community, and poets. Benjamin and his family lived on Farm Street when he was a child, so we will be able to retrace steps that he has taken many years before...

The poems will be laminated and tied to the trees, so this temporary, non-invasive method of display doesn't disturb or damage the trees. Therefore, we hope the wonderful poets will return to replace their poems when they are worn. Alongside the Burbury Park Community Forum and Birmingham

Empowerment Forum caring for the orchard, we want to encourage the community and those involved with this project to come back, ensuring the trees are healthy, and the forest is thriving for Benjamin. This project has been crowdfunded through Spacehive, sponsored by Trees for Cities, Veolia, Birmingham City Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund with West Midlands Combined Authority and the UK Government, and is in partnership with the Benjamin Zephaniah Family Legacy Group. We wholeheartedly thank every group and individual that has contributed to Benjamin's legacy mini forest in Newtown (a full list of sponsors will also be available on our website soon); through your donations, time, and support, Benjamin's legacy will last another 65 years, and another, and another.

See The Zephaniah Forest Poetree Trail on TreePlotter here (work-in-progress): <https://uk.pg-cloud.com/BTP/?scenario=BZforest>

### **Street Tree Survey Project**

Our Street Tree Survey, run by Trustee Nina Griffiths, started back up last month! The BTP surveying team are back to the streets to check the newly planted trees, taking citizen science data to inform future planting endeavours for the Urban Forest Masterplan.

Thank you to Ruth, Meena, and Dee for surveying 20 trees in Quinton on Wednesday 5th March! They found a mulch-cano on a healthy tree, and a strange bark disease on a tulip tree, but these are the reasons why we survey the trees: making sure they are healthy, thriving, and live long lives. We have over 300 left to survey, can you help us? Please join [here](#) (please sign up as an urban forest volunteer first).

### **Edgbaston Reservoir Orchard Pruning Workshop**

Steve Watson, one of BTP's previous Trustees and current advisors, attended the orchard pruning event run by Fruit & Nut Village, at Edgbaston Reservoir Orchard. There was a great turn-out for the session, where volunteers were led through the pruning process by Dr Rob Tilling of FNV, with support from Warm Earth, Birmingham Settlement Nature & Wellbeing Centre, Birmingham TreePeople and hosts The Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir LNR. Bethany-Louise Robinson – a final year photography student – joined the event orchard event to document how people interact with green spaces, producing photographs for her end of year exhibition, and shared them with the Friends group.





Green Regards,

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## Birmingham TreePeople

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

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