

The Great Big Green Week

On Friday 24 September, Friends of Shirley Park hosted an event in Shirley Park as part of The Great Big Green Week, an environmental initiative to showcase actions being taken to help tackle climate change.

One part of the event included students from Kingswood School participating in some environmental educational activities that were on offer throughout the day, the children ranging from infants to juniors (5 to 10 years).

The 'Planting Our Future' team (with support from Love Solihull and Friends of Shirley Park) assisted the children in planting over 70 cherry tree seeds in their very own bio-degradable pots which they got to take home, along with advice on how to care for their seedlings. Cherry trees were selected specifically due to their fantastic benefits; easy to grow and perfectly sized for the garden, not to mention aesthetically pleasing and its fruit can be enjoyed by all, encouraging bio-diversity into gardens around the borough.

The cherry tree was also chosen following the [19 cherry trees planted at Hope Coppice last year](#) as a remembrance to those affected by COVID-19. With specific significance to the pandemic and mental health and well-being, the cherry tree seeds planted by the children act as a symbolic milestone, acknowledging how far we have come since the pandemic, and a sign for a green future.

As well as helping the Planting Our Future team 'Plant Our Future', the children helped forage and furnish Shirley Park's newest addition, its very own Bug House. The Bug House was filled with the best the park had to offer and was placed in prime location to provide habitats for and increase biodiversity and support pollinators. For more from the Planting Our Future team, head over to Facebook [@PlantingOurFutureSol](#), Instagram and Twitter [@LoveSolihull](#).

Also in attendance at The Great Big Green event was [Wonder Woods Forest School](#), a nurturing ethos that enables children of all ages and abilities to deepen their understanding of self, others and the natural environment surrounding them. The children took part in a number of activities including climate change-themed chalk drawings and a nature-based story-telling under the shade of the tepee. There will be plenty more from Wonder Woods Forest School, with outdoor learning activities encouraging wellbeing; follow [@wonderwoodsforestschool](#) on Instagram to keep up to date.

The Great Big Green Event was a huge success, and we also wanted to give a shout out to all of the other events and volunteers (such as litter picking groups across the borough) who contributed in making it such a wonderful success.

The Planting Our Future Team x