

'Re-wilding, re-connecting and re-imaging planting across the borough with community engagement, education and raising environmental awareness at its heart.'

Solihull Council have pledged to plant 250,000 trees over the next ten years as part of its commitment to tackle climate change via its 'Planting Our Future' campaign. In the last year, we have worked with numerous partners including local colleges, schools, golf clubs, community groups and charities to find homes for some of the 25,000 trees planted in the borough.

Planting Season Special



We've been busy over the past 4 months! With approx. 25,000 trees in the ground and planted in over 30 locations across the borough. Over 12 community planting events took place, 3 of which were sponsored by local businesses.

We kicked off planting season during National Tree Week (27 December – 5 December) and marked the occasion by launching a refreshed '[Shirley Tree Trail](#)', developed in conjunction with Solihull Tree Wardens and Friends of Shirley Park.

During the week, 100 trees were planted along highways throughout the borough. These trees will not only absorb

carbon, but will help to reduce the 'heat-island' effect by providing shade.

Here is a snippet of some of the events that have taken place:

Soroptimist International Centenary Wood

Back in December, we worked with Soroptimist International Solihull and District club to plant a new 100-tree woodland in Dorridge Park as part of their 100th anniversary celebrations.

Soroptimist International works to enrich the lives of women everywhere. When the first Soroptimist group began in California in 1921, their first project was to protect Redwood trees from deforestation. Now, a century later, Soroptimist International has initiated a new eco-project which fits in perfectly with the 'Planting our Future' objective. Cllr Ken Meeson, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony on 9 December. The ceremony was also attended by Solihull's Soroptimist Club President, Margaret Lloyd; Leader of Solihull Council, Cllr Ian Courts; Deputy Leader of Solihull Council, Cllr Karen Grinsell; and members of Soroptimist International Solihull and District Club.



State Bank of India sponsors 1st Solihull Scout planting

Thursday 27 January, the 'Planting Our Future' team planted 250 trees at 1st Solihull Scouts based in Lode Lane. The team was joined by a group of volunteers from State Bank of India, who helped us plant trees along the Scouts' boundary.



State Bank of India has a global presence, operating in over 30 countries. In celebration of their 100th year in the UK, State Bank of India sponsored 100 of the trees that went into the ground.

As well as boundary planting, we kept planting in keeping with the area, and planted sporadically around the woodland. We also planted trees along the bank of the stream in the grounds. The roots will help to form the bank and prevent erosion and mitigate flooding.

Lavender Hall Park Community Planting

During the first week of the New Year, we planted up Lavender Hall Park with the help of volunteers from Touchwood Shopping Centre and Brownie Guides.

Lavender Hall Park now has the addition of two tree-lined paths, consisting of over 40 trees, 20 of which sponsored by Touchwood in honour of their 20th Anniversary which was celebrated last year (2021). Volunteers from Touchwood joined us on the brisk January morning and helped to plant the trees they'd sponsored.

We were also joined by a fantastic group from the Brownie Guides on Saturday (8 January) morning, who helped plant the remaining trees. The girls and the team had an active and fun morning planting up the second tree-lined path in Lavender Hall Park as well as talking about the wide variety of benefits trees provide us and the environment.



The Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The initiative invites people from across the UK to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" and we did just that! Here are a few of the projects this year that were dedicated to the QGC:



Warwick Road

We planted 5 cherry trees in Warwick Road with the help of some of the wonderful residents from the street, including their furry friend. The trees were positioned to complement existing trees in the area and will provide a beautiful pink canopy in the spring.

Langley Hall Park

We planted 54 trees in Langley Hall Park, which were sponsored by Platinum Jubilee Supporters, John Lewis. The number of trees planted in the location is significant, as it signifies the number of countries in the Commonwealth. We were joined on the day by members of Langley Primary School's Eco-Club, who helped us plant. Also in attendance was Sir Nigel Thrift, Deputy Left Lieutenant; Leader of the Council, Cllr Courts; Cllr Bob Grinsell; and Cllr Gibbon.





Lighthall School

An orchard was planted in the grounds of Lighthall School, consisting of 10 fruit trees. The Queen's Deputy Lieutenant Chris Loughran joined the Mayor of Solihull Cllr Ken Meeson, students and staff from Light Hall School and council staff to plant ten trees at Light Hall School last week for The Queen's Green Canopy.

Shirley Park Planting with the Cadets

Early last year, the orchard in Shirley Park was vandalised, but after quick thinking and hard work from the team and Friends of Shirley Park, some of the trees were saved. With the trees in the orchard healing, The Cadets joined us in Shirley Park on 5 March to help plant additional fruit trees in the rose garden. During the day, The Cadets learned about the benefits of trees and the importance of protecting them. Simultaneously, Friends of Shirley Park undertook a litter pick around the park. Following the tree planting, the Cadets took a tour of the trees in the park using the Shirley Tree Trail as a guide.



Commonwealth Legacy & Tiny Forest at Hope Coppice



We are excited to announce that Hope Coppice has become the first location of the Severn Trent and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Forests with 9,400 trees. This Legacy Forest will contribute to offsetting the carbon generated by the Commonwealth Games, making the games the first to be carbon neutral.

The first trees have been planted in Solihull as part of Severn Trent's initiative to create 2022-acres of Commonwealth Forest across the Midlands. The 15 acres of new habitat at Hope Coppice will be open to the public to explore and will equate to around 9,400 trees.

The Commonwealth Forest planting event was spread over two days, and we were joined by 200 volunteers. The volunteers in attendance were able to plant and learn more about what we do from the various informational points at the location.

The first day of planting took place on World Wildlife Day, Thursday 3 March, with Commonwealth Games athlete Anna Hursey backing the initiative. The Commonwealth Forest was opened by Sir Nigel Thrift, Deputy Left Lieutenant, and The Mayor of Solihull Councillor Ken Meeson. Also in attendance was Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Courts.

The Commonwealth Forest at Hope Coppice is increasing woodland cover within South Solihull and will complement the Arden Historical landscape, as well as creating more places for people to enjoy.

Next door to our new Commonwealth Legacy Forest at Hope Coppice is 1 of 72 Tiny Forests being planted which are also part of the QGC and supported by Severn Trent, in celebration of the commonwealth games and the 72 nations competing.

Tiny Forests are around the size of a tennis court and aim to bring green spaces into urban areas to support outdoor learning, create new habitats for wildlife and allow people to reconnect with nature. An additional tiny forest is also being planted with the 237th Castle Bromwich Scouts at Beechcroft Local Nature Reserve to celebrate their 90th Anniversary.

National Trust Partnership



We are delighted to be partnering with the National Trust, and to be working towards our mutual ambitions throughout a three-year partnership. The first joint project took place this planting season at National Trust properties: Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House, and despite the weather, we had a wonderful two days planting hedgerows with the National Trust staff and corporate volunteers from the Mace Group.

Annette Edmond, MACE group said

“On behalf of the Mace team we want to say a big thank you to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the Planting our Future team for organising the event and giving us the opportunity to volunteer and support the National Trust at Baddesley Clinton to plant 900 mixed tree species over

2 days. We thoroughly enjoyed volunteering for such a good cause knowing that we have contributed to improving the wildlife habitat and supporting biodiversity and we look forward to visiting Baddesley Clinton in a few years to see how they have grown.”

Education with the next generation

We have loved meeting students from schools across the borough. Young people have such a passion for nature and trees and are such an inspiration. This planting season we have worked with Dorridge Primary School's Eco team to plant a new hedge row as well as 4 big pear trees. Collaborated with Solihull College to create a green carbon capture corridor by planting next to a busy car park on their site with the staff and students. Planted a large number of trees in Lavender Hall Park with the Balsall Common Brownies. We have also planted trees with Fordbridge Primary School, Merestone School, and the Triple Crown Centre.



We couldn't have done any of this on our own, so we are sending a big thank you to all stakeholders, community groups, Solihull tree wardens, landowners, and all our business sponsor's, who have all been involved. If you would like to get involved next year please get in touch, via email

plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk

From, Planting Our Future Team x

For more information please visit our website: www.lovesolihull.org or email plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk

Follow us and our journey on our social media platforms and watch our plans unfold –

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