

*'Re-wilding, re-connecting and re-imagining 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.

## 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.

To finish the day we created a bug house within the park. A bug house is a great way to create additional habitats for minibeasts and insects. With the Childrens help we went on and built one (upcycling pallets) and furnished it with all the park had to offer (located within Shirley Park Rose Garden).



## Hope Coppice



The first phase of hard works began in early September and will last approx. 12 weeks. Works will include the creation of board walks, woodchip paths, a specially designed bespoke archway (designed by local school children) and natural play – such as balance logs and stepping beams. The Leader and Cllr Grinsell both visited the site, and were impressed with the works to date.

Planting Our Future will be working with Wonder Woods Forest School to develop an outdoor area that will be perfect for children to learn and play.

# Armed Forces Community Garden

Completed in May 2021, this stunning garden is home to a community wildlife garden, which hosts a relaxing seating area and leads to a walkway through a community orchard and a summer meadow filled with a purple haze meadow mix.

Beyond this, visitors will find a boardwalk and community woodland which follows the RBL's Battle Back Centre principles to create opportunities for active recovery.

On approach to the circular archway at the entrance to the garden, visitors will see a thought provoking and assuring message which reads 'Courage does not always roar', revealed summer 21.

The garden has already attracted many visitors since opening, including veterans like Terry Barnett, who says: "As an ambassador for the RBL, I was delighted to visit the Armed Forces Community Garden. I truly believe that this tranquil and beautiful space will not only benefit me through being in a place of peace, but many other veterans just like me." And a visit from the Age UK Veterans club, [click here](#) to read more about their visit.

We are also looking to get activities in the garden up and running, if you would like to get involved email us at [plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk)



## Lavender Hall Park – Hope Stone



A new symbol of hope and tribute to all those affected by the pandemic has been installed at Katherine's Wood.

The Hope Stone has been created to symbolise hope in difficult times, pay tribute to those who have suffered and give thanks to all those who helped.

[Click here](#) for the full story.

## Planting Season!

Planting season is just around the corner, and we will have lots to share over the next few months! This is usually our busiest time of year with approx. 25,000 trees being planted, many linked to exciting projects. Projects include: The Queens Green Canopy, school orchard planting, green corridor creations and a new forest school. Also we are looking at the possibility to work alongside Severn Trent to create the first carbon-neutral games and supporting where we can through tree planting (so watch this space!)

Keep up to date with our activities on our social media and follow our new Facebook Page: @PlantingOurFutureSol

*From, Planting Our Future Team x*

For more information please visit our website: [www.lovesolihull.org](http://www.lovesolihull.org) or email [plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk)

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

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