

The Tree and Bee Network

Connecting people and nature through the creation of resilient and sustainable landscapes

treeandbee@eastleigh.gov.uk
community@fairoak-pc.gov.uk
admin@bishopstoke.org



Funded and delivered by Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Local Area Committee and local partners



Helen Brown
Treescapes

Tree Champions – Do you have a favourite tree?



Oak in Bishopstoke. Photo taken by Diana Goodyear

We are calling for nominations for our ‘Tree Champions’ – which is an opportunity to celebrate the mature trees in the Parishes of Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath. These giants are known as the ‘Grandparent trees’ in some cultures and are respected and revered for their social and environmental importance.

We know that trees connect underground via a dense network of fibrous roots, assisted by mycorrhizal fungi. Research suggests that more established trees help to both nourish their younger counterparts by offering nutrients, as well as helping to protect them from disease by giving warning signals of insect attack, for example.

We would like to map the more mature trees and then create a self-guided trail, explaining their history, wildlife and folk law associations.

Do you have a favourite tree? Perhaps you have named it, or it has a special meaning to you. Please send in photos and tell us about it and we will add it to the map!



TREE PLANTING



There is an old saying that states ‘the best time to plant trees was twenty years ago’ – however, the next best time is now!

During the winter months (November-February), deciduous trees are dormant and resting before firing up growth hormones in the spring. During winter, trees can be planted as either bare root or containerised specimens, giving them time to establish their roots before the weather becomes warmer and drier. We like to plant no later than early March when the ground is still cool and damp, to reduce the chance of roots dying out. In theory, containerised trees may be planted year-round, but there is a greater risk of them drying out if planted during the summer months. Young trees will need watering during the first 3 years of establishment, but the earlier they are planted in winter, the more time their roots have to establish and the better their chance of survival .



FAIR OAK and HORTON HEATH

Dean Road Garden



With the help of our brilliant volunteers, we have been busy planting apple, pear and crab apple trees during January. The volunteers also planted fruit bushes and a climbing thornless bramble to climb up the existing fencing. Look out for the daffs and bluebells which should slowly begin to emerge as the spring

advances. The central area has been left clear for children to play and will be mown later in the year as the grass starts to come through.

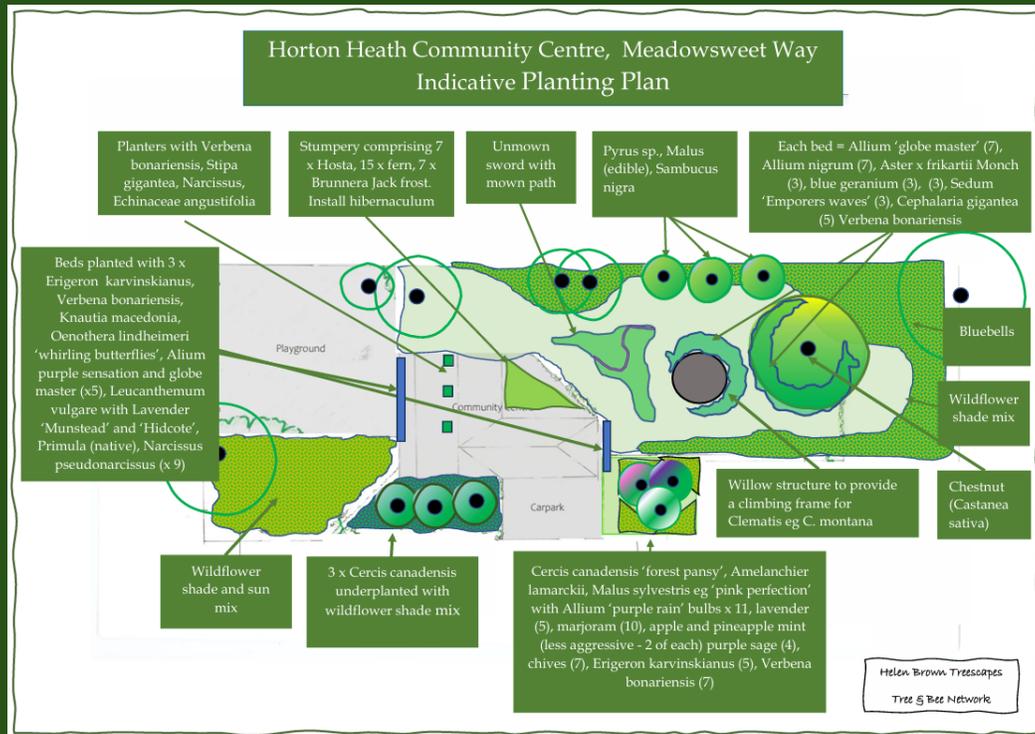


If you would like to join our lovely group of volunteers at Dean Road – please email us and we will put you in touch.



Meadowsweet Way

On a cold and rainy February day, with the help of volunteers, we ventured out to plant the beginnings of a forest garden with sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), eating apple (*Malus domestica* 'Scrumtious'), crab apple (*Malus* 'Golden hornet'), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), June berry (*Amelanchier lamarckii*) and Victoria plum (*Prunus domestica* 'Victoria').



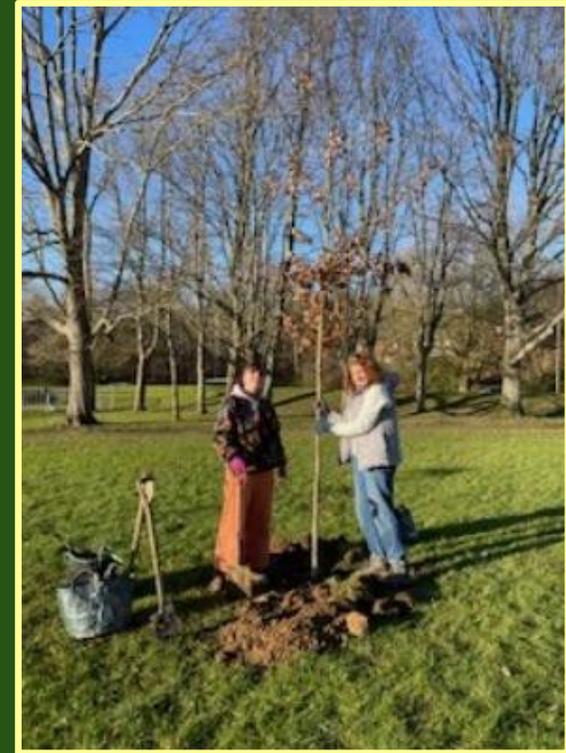
The ground is very wet at the moment and perfect for planting, but as the weather begins to dry, the trees will need regular watering and care. If you are interested in helping to maintain or develop the forest garden, it would be great to hear from you. Please get in touch!

Bishopstoke Tree & Bee Gardens

Otter Close Park

We would like to give a huge thank you to the volunteers who helped to plant two oaks (*Quercus robur* and *Q. rubra*), an Amelanchier (*A. lamarckii*) and Toffee apple tree (*Ceridipillum japonicum* 'Katsura') at Otter Close Park.

Please look out for these trees and let us know if you see any signs of damage or disease. We have plans to continue the planting in the autumn by adding fruit trees which will produce blossom, providing fodder for pollinators and fruit in the autumn.



Forest Garden and tree planting volunteers



Elsewhere in Bishopstoke, our volunteers who are developing the forest garden element of the Tree & Bee Network have been busy planting and maintaining trees within the gardens along Sedgewick Road, Stokepark Road and the surrounding areas.

We are still looking for residents who may like to help develop the gardens on Escombe Road and Colchester Avenue.

Please get in touch and join the team!

Alternatively, if you would like your own garden to be a part of the Tree & Bee Network, we would love to hear from you as we can help you diversify your garden hedge, so it provides year-round fodder for wildlife and fruit for you - or add a small pond or habitat pile to encourage wildlife.



Volunteering in Bishopstoke

We are delighted to have more volunteers who have joined us to help nurture many of the Tree & Bee Gardens in Bishopstoke and we are Extremely grateful for their help in making Bishopstoke a greener and more biodiverse place to live.

We still need

Garden 14
Escombe
Road

We will introduce you to the rest of the team and help you learn how to nurture the garden for wildlife and grow organic food for yourself and your community



Garden 10
East Drive

Garden 15
Hamilton
Road/Underwood
Road

Garden 16
Hamilton
Road/Underwood
Road

However, we still need more help with the Bishopstoke Tree & Bee Gardens which are currently looking for guardians.

If you live near any of these areas and would you like to get involved with planting and harvesting? Please get in touch!

The Bishopstoke Tree & Bee Gardens (contd)

Gardens 15 & 16
Hamilton
Road/Underwood
Road



Pupils at Stoke Park School
helped to design the signs which
you may have seen waymarking
the Tree & Bee sites....

Otter Close Play
area

Please contact
treeandbee@eastleigh.gov.uk or
admin@bishopstoke.org for more
information