



Hello Guardians!

Hope you are all well and looking forward to Spring. Hopefully your saplings have made it though the winter and you can see some buds getting ready to burst into life.

It has been a long time since my last proper newsletter so I have a few things to tell you. In case you don't have time to read all and just want to skip to a relevant bit, this newsletter contains;

- Planned planting sessions
  - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at Willey Wood Farm
  - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March in Bramcote Hills Park
  - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March at Pitt Lane Stapleford
- Past Planting Sessions
- Seeds collected and available
- Events Update
- Guardians Update

#### PLANNED PLANTING SESSIONS

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at Willey Wood

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March in Bramcote Hills Park 10am-12pm

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March at Pitt Lane Stapleford 10am-12pm

#### PAST PLANTING SESSIONS

Spring 2022 we held a planting event at the Hetley Pearson recreation ground and in November 2022 another at Pitt Lane, Stapleford, both sites identified and prepared by Broxtowe Borough Council.

The Pitt Lane event took place on a cold but sunny day , a great turnout with about 30 people planting and over 500 trees planted. The Mayor attended and we had both help and trees from the Nottinghamshire Treeplanters.

The trees at Hetley Pearson are largely doing well but unfortunately the ones at Pitt Lane have been severely nibbled by rabbits in the cold winter spells when there was little else for them to eat. The

council have kindly fitted some tree guards but we have to wait until Spring has sprung to see just how heavy the losses were. Hence another planting planned at this site in a few weeks.



### SEEDS SEEDS, SAPLINGS AND MORE SEEDS

After various forays in the Autumn and extracting and stratifying throughout the winter I have thousands of tree seeds: hazel, crabapple, Blackthorn (sloe), hawthorn, oak, rowan, hornbeam, elder, alder, guelder rose, silver birch, broom, rosehip, holly, ash, field maple, buckthorn, wild plum yew, beech, small leaf lime and large leaf lime. Please contact me if you want some.

You might remember that last year I ran 6 experiments with seeds, planting at different times, stratifying and not stratifying, soaking or not soaking. Without elaborating too much, the results were inconclusive. Across the experimental board there was some (but not amazing) success with oak, hazel, crabapple, buckthorn, hawthorn, field maple and alder. Other people have reported success with those same ones plus silver birch, broom and blackthorn. However, I haven't given up on those same experiments and I believe I am seeing signs of life in the guelder rose pots and broom, those seeds were planted in Autumn 2021. But the words of wisdom I was hoping to be able to impart this year still elude me. All I can say is, Mother Nature knows when the time is right.

Please keep an eye out too for saplings coming up in unwanted places. If you transplant them and nurture them, we can give them a permanent home where they won't be mown or strimmed.

And remember that saplings would naturally grow in the shade of their Mother trees – keep them in the shade or partial shade!



## EVENTS UPDATE

All these helped to spread the word, 2 interviews on BBC Nottingham radio, stalls at 3 Broxtowe Green Festival events (Beeston, Stapleford and Colliers Wood), The Hemlock Happening, Beeston Sea Scouts plant sale, Grove Avenue allotments open day, Middle Street Resource Centre mayors fayre and a day at Attenborough Nature Reserve with Notts Wildlife Trust.



## GUARDIANS UPDATE

This is unbelievable...there are now nearly 500 people on my guardians list, that's 500 mini tree nurseries in gardens, allotments, on balconies and in playgrounds and churchyards all over Broxtowe and some beyond. AMAZING!!!

Please contact me if;

- You plan to attend any of the planting events and need directions and details or need saplings picking up and planting
- You want any seeds
- You have any great tree seed germinating tips or stories to share
- You have any ideas of locations to plant or future Canopy 2050 events
- I have failed to respond to you! Life is busy and sometimes I fail...