

Plymouth Tree Partnership

Annual Report 2019-20



Registered charity no: 1161565

Guided by Principles..

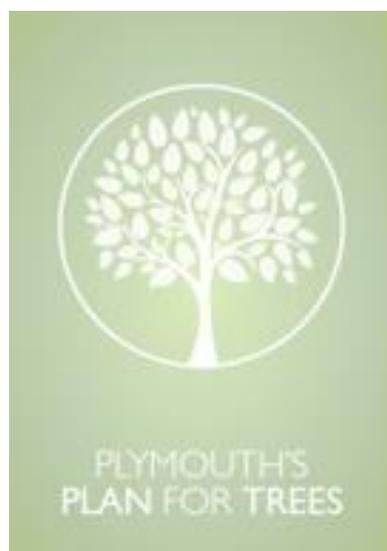
Activities for the year from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 have been guided by Plymouth's 'Plan for Trees' which was adopted on 5th March 2019 and based on the four principles of **"Promote, Protect, Care and Enhance"** to steer delivery over the next 25 years.

Initial delivery actions have benefitted from close working relationships with Plymouth City Council staff at Poole Farm where the partnership shares an office, and from the Woodland Trust's involvement which made it possible to employ a co-ordinator, Hayley Rogers, to lead the initial 'Plymouth Tree Challenge' projects between August 2019 and March 2020. The main activities completed in that time were:

- An i-Tree Eco survey across 280 sample plots
- A public engagement campaign with new videos of partnership activities
- A community-led street planting project
- Administration improvements including a new filing structure and policy papers.

'Plymouth Tree Challenge' began as the campaign name for a funding application by Plymouth City Council to plant over 1,000 trees using the Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge Fund. Since then, the term has come to embrace all activities supporting the Plan for Trees and it will continue into future years using the hashtag **#plymouthtreechallenge** for social media posts.

Our Annual Report will look at the four principles and the activities that have stemmed from them to progress the re-greening the city of Plymouth. We look forward to continuing this work with the other Plan for Trees partners into the following years.



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PROMOTE

We will promote the benefits and value of our trees and woods through education and encouraging best practice

We have sought new and interesting ways to engage people, including links to the Mayflower 400 commemorations, developing our presence on social media and attending and running public events.

'Pilgrim 400' apple

With a Mayflower Community Sparks funding grant in December 2018, Plymouth Tree Partnership contracted with Endsleigh Gardens Nursery to raise 40 maiden trees for community groups and schools to buy and plant. The offer was included in the dedicated website www.pilgrim400.co.uk which was produced by Plymouth Tree Partnership in conjunction with a local web designer and launched on 31st May 2019.



Planting a Pilgrim 400 apple tree at Pilgrim Primary Academy

Ceremonial plantings took place in Pilgrim Primary Academy on 1st November 2019 with the Deputy Lord Mayor present and in the Council House garden on 11th March 2020 with the Lord Mayor. The first event involved the whole school during a day of Mayflower-themed activities and the second was a civic occasion attended by Plymouth Tree Partnership trustees and other invited guests. Both events were full of warmth and community spirit. They also boosted publicity for the apple but applications from schools and community groups have been slow to arrive and, with the Coronavirus pandemic, it became necessary to extend the 1st May 2020 deadline.

American Tree Trail

We are grateful to Heather Barriball for the considerable time she has spent producing and refining this walking trail through the City Centre and Barbican. Plymouth Tree Partnership members gave it a 'road test' one evening in May and work since then has been directed towards formatting it as a partner trail with the three digital trails produced by Plymouth City Council. Their lead officer has been tremendously supportive and all the trails are close to being available as a mobile app.

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Walks and Talks

After the AGM on 19th June 2019, the Friends of Freedom Park led a pleasant evening stroll around the park which included stops to see how the young trees were faring. On 10th July 2019, we were treated to a walk in Budshead Wood with its volunteer warden, Raymond Morton, providing a wide-ranging and fascinating commentary. Budshead Wood is an ancient woodland and a local nature reserve.

The winter series of monthly talks has once again been very successful thanks to the University of Plymouth's sponsorship and speakers who have generously given their time to share knowledge and experience. From November onwards, the talks were held in the University's new Sustainability Hub which makes an ideal venue and one we hope to continue using. March's meeting sadly had to be cancelled because of Coronavirus whilst average attendance across the other five meetings was 25, which is an increase on previous years. Annex A lists the topics covered.

Public engagement campaign

We worked with Fotonow, a community interest company that specialises in photographic and film projects, to create a suite of social media videos to launch and promote the Plymouth Tree Challenge campaign. The videos will be released during 2020 and 2021 and highlight the benefits of trees, the Plan for Trees, planting opportunities and the scope for community involvement. Look out for the videos on social media pages as they are shared by Plan for Trees partners in the coming months.

Social Media

We launched our new Facebook account in October 2019 which is focussed on the Partnership's specific activities and it sits comfortably alongside the established Plymouth's Favourite Trees Facebook page. We launched our account on Twitter soon afterwards. Together, the accounts provide a powerful means to reach a large audience and encourage community participation.

Meet the public events

For the first time, we had a stand at Local Studies Day in the Roland Levinsky building on 4th May 2019 and it was well visited by delegates during breaks in the lecture programme. Our usual stand at All Ways Apples on 23rd October 2019 once again attracted families who wanted to try their hand at growing an apple tree from seeds.

Introduction to Trees course

It has been a long-standing aim to run an 'Introduction to Trees' course suitable for a wide range of people including built-environment professionals, tree wardens and other volunteers, and people considering careers in the environment.

The main obstacle has been developing a package that is readily accessible and fits the ever-changing criteria for vocational funding. Currently, twelve people have expressed an interest and two training providers – Lynher and Focus – have tutors available. Both are developing a prospectus to describe the syllabus and delivery method and associated cost although the Coronavirus situation means that any course is unlikely to start before spring 2021.

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PROTECT

We will protect Plymouth's special trees and woods for future generations

Effective protection depends on having accurate, up-to-date information about trees and woods, and volunteers with Plymouth Tree Partnership have played their part.

Family Tree Field survey

Tree Wardens were pleased to welcome Calor Gas staff back to the Family Tree Field in Central Park for a day of corporate volunteering on 25th September 2019. The work included photographing and recording the positions of trees, which was achieved using a mobile phone app that had been purposefully developed by The Data Place, a local social enterprise company. Further assistance from the developers made it possible to display a map of the trees on www.plymouthtrees.org where it provides a useful aid to identification.

i-Tree Eco survey

Between September and December 2019, 28 volunteers from Plymouth Tree Partnership and other organisations worked individually or in pairs to record detailed information about trees and shrubs in plots that had been allocated to them following one of the training days. There were 280 plots in total, each of 400 square metres and randomly located across the Plymouth local authority area. When the records have been compiled and analysed by Treeconomics, the survey should provide statistically reliable information about the make-up of Plymouth's tree and shrub cover and quantify the associated benefits to inform future decision making.



Learning how i-Tree works



Surveying a woodland plot

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ENHANCE

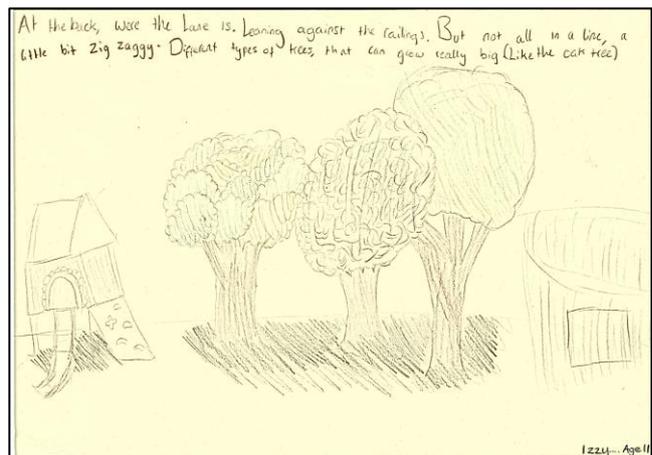
We will enhance neighbourhoods by selecting and growing high-quality trees that also increase canopy cover and tree diversity

Helping others to plant and grow new trees is fundamental to Plymouth Tree Partnership's purpose and it embraces all the activities from initial discussions with stakeholders to final handover to tree managers. Planting is typically the most satisfying part and a few of the most interesting this year are described below. A list of all 202 trees that were planted with some partnership input is at Annex B.

All our projects rely on one or two individuals who can take the lead as Tree Wardens and guide others in providing the necessary aftercare. There are Tree Wardens in 20 different locations across Plymouth and they are supported by a mobile team who can lend a hand with big jobs. Details are at Annex C.

Herbert Street

This has to be one of the loveliest community projects. Staff and parents at Herbert Street Children's Centre wanted trees in the play park just 50 yards along the road. An older sister in one of the families sketched an idea of what was needed and then they held coffee mornings to raise money. Ward councillors contributed from their community funds. Plans were laid for a big planting day to be attended by local residents with tea and cake afterwards in the Children's Centre.



A view of Herbert Street Play Park before planting and Izzy's diagram to show what was wanted

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic meant that the planting day had to be scaled right back with only the Children Centre's project leader there to watch Plymouth City Council's Green Estates staff plant the trees. She placed a time capsule under one of the trees which contained objects that gave a glimpse about what is important in the world today from a child's perspective.

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Devonport Park

The Friends of Devonport Park and Park Managers have long sought to improve the lower part of the park between Park Avenue and New Passage Hill with new tree planting and, by dint of hard work and perseverance, their opportunity came this winter. The scheme included 19 trees in 20-litre pots and larger, and 82 trees in smaller sizes. Plymouth Tree Partnership was able to assist by passing on experience from similar projects, by taking part on the planting days and by providing funding for natural-fibre mulch mats to aid weed suppression and moisture retention.

Urban Tree Challenge Fund – future projects

The government launched the Urban Tree Challenge Fund in May 2019 and prospective applicants were given two months to complete an extremely demanding bid process. It required some very hard work by Plymouth City Council's Green Estates Team, which was aided by Tree Wardens going out to identify potential planting sites. After initial rejection and a period of uncertainty, it was a big surprise to see a press release in February 2020 announcing that most of Plymouth's bid had been accepted subject to confirming a matched contribution and finalising details.

CARE

We will care for our trees and woods by practising and promoting good tree and woodland management

This principle focuses on the management of established trees which is primarily the responsibility of landowners although volunteers can assist by reporting problems, especially signs of new diseases, such as Xylella, Oak Processionary Moth and Sweet Chestnut Blight.



A nest may be the first sign of Oak Processionary Moth infestation

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Governance and administration

Trustees, staff and key volunteers

None of the above achievements would have been possible without all the background work required to keep the charity running well which has been led by the trustees:

David Curry	Chair
Roger Atkin	Treasurer
Chris Hunt	Family Tree Scheme Co-ordinator
John Stone	
Alexander Borthwick	
Penny Tarrant	
Diane Barrall	

Alan Harvey resigned as a trustee at the 2019 AGM having co-ordinated the Family Tree Scheme since 2010. The young plantings have flourished under his stewardship and the field in Central Park regularly attracts appreciative comments from visitors. We are grateful for all his work there and delighted he has stayed on as a Tree Warden.

Teresa Frost has continued as Membership Secretary where she has watched over a growing number of members and is adept at inviting others to join.

Hayley Rogers was employed from August 2019 to March 2020 for one day a week to co-ordinate 'Plymouth Tree Challenge' work and has also worked in a voluntary capacity to develop new communication channels and resources, especially with social media.

Andrew Young has continued as the volunteering co-ordinator with the monthly meet of the mobile Tree Warden team becoming an established event.

Partnership policies

Existing policies for Health and Safety, Volunteering and Data Protection were reviewed and new policies written to cover Safeguarding, Social Media and Sustainability. There were no incidents of a serious nature.

Membership

New members have been welcomed over the year and membership now stands at 68 individual, joint and corporate members.

Volunteering

There are currently 30 Tree Wardens in Plymouth and altogether they have spent a tremendous 930 hours on practical tasks around trees in 2019-20. Every situation is different but regular oversight and fixing small problems before they escalate always makes a big difference to the feel of a place. In particular, we will miss Andy Anderson's contribution having stepped down as Tree Warden for Radford Woods in January after eight years of almost daily visits and regular attention to the orchard planted by the Bird Hide in 2012.

In addition to the times recorded for practical work, volunteers were essential for the i-Tree survey and some have spent much more time on tree-related projects and training.

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Partnership files

A shared drive, or 'cloud working', enables those in key administration roles to access partnership files without having to go to the office at Poole Farm. It depends on having an easily navigable folder structure and this was set up during the year on 'Google Drive'. Several drawbacks became apparent when starting to use it in February and Richard Cosgrave, who administers the partnership's systems pro bono, advised that Microsoft had stolen a lead with their offer to charities. We accepted his kind offer to migrate everything across and the new system should be available shortly.

Funding

We are very grateful to all those individuals and organisations who donated money or made grants in support of our work during 2019-20. They include:

Co-op Community Fund

Uplands Charitable Trust

The Woodland Trust

Plymouth City Council Community Grants allocated by councillors

Plymouth Tree Partnership's income for the year 2019-20 was £7,041.73. Expenditure was significantly greater at £20,010.13 as projects were completed with grants received in 2018-19.

Partner organisations

We value the close links that Plymouth Tree Partnership shares with other organisations and they include:

Plymouth Tree Challenge partners; Plymouth City Council, Plymouth Community Homes, Plymouth Open Spaces Network, National Trust and Woodland Trust

The Tree Council

South Hams Tree Warden network and Cornwall Tree Wardens

Plymouth Environmental Action

Plymouth Community Orchards

Environment Plymouth and POP+

Friends of Parks and Woods; Central Park, Devonport Park, Freedom Park, Ham Woods, Hartley Park, Hoe Park, Radford Park, Radford Woods and the Derriford Hospital Environment Group

Acknowledgements

In addition to our funders, Plymouth Tree Partnership greatly appreciates the time and expertise generously contributed by many individuals to make things happen and we are particularly grateful to:

Richard Cosgrave from Whitchurch-based IT firm, 'Beside the Box' for keeping our systems running and setting up the office for 'cloud' working.

Dr Sophie Fauset and Dr Paul Hardman at the University of Plymouth for their encouragement and support which has included use of the University's facilities.

Hannah Pooley, Plymouth City Council's lead for trails and much more besides, for her enthusiasm and ideas with bringing the American Tree Trail to life as a mobile app.

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Annex A – Meetings

Meetings were held on these dates and we are extremely grateful to each of the speakers for sharing their knowledge and experience with us.

- 9th October 2019 Growing trees for urban places
Jim Hillier and Jamie Gormley, Managers at Hillier Nurseries, travelled especially for the meeting and presented an informative and entertaining account of work on a busy tree nursery.
- 13th November 2019 Climate change and trees
Ross Kennerley, the Woodland Trust's Regional Manager, explored the threats to trees from climate change and described how the Committee on Climate Change had identified new tree planting and the use of sustainable wood products as ways to reach net zero.
- 18th December 2019 Ecology of Forest Trees
Dr Sophie Fauset, Lecturer in Environmental Science at the University of Plymouth, gave a vivid account of the importance of carbon and water cycles to all forms of life and how they are being disrupted by deforestation.
- 15th January 2020 Bicester – new Garden Town
Tim Arkell, Senior Landscape Architect at LHC Design, brought to life one of his previous projects as he described what was involved in designing and implementing liveable spaces as part of a large new housing development.
- 19th February 2020 Why plant trees?
Thomas Murphy, a PhD Researcher and 'Moor Trees' trustee, explained how rain on Dartmoor quickly runs into streams and rivers with risk of downstream flooding and went on to analyse potential solutions that included new large-scale tree planting.

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Annex B – Tree plantings

Plymouth Tree Partnership was pleased to be associated with the following projects, some in a big way and some in a small way:

Central Park – Jubilee Row	2 <i>Castanea sativa</i>
Central Park – Golf Course	1 <i>Eucalyptus pauciflora ssp niphophila</i> 5 <i>Pinus radiata</i> 5 <i>Malus domestica cvs.</i> 5 <i>Carpinus betulus</i> ‘Frans Fontaine’ 2 <i>Carpinus betulus</i> ‘Fastigiata’ 2 <i>Quercus robur</i>
Central Park – area between Events Field & Alma Road	3 <i>Carpinus betulus</i> 3 <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> 2 <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> 2 <i>Prunus padus</i>
Central Park – Discovery Way	3 <i>Aesculus x carnea</i> ‘Briotii’
Cremyll Street	4 <i>Sorbus aria</i>
Derriford Hospital, Car Park A	2 <i>Magnolia stellata</i> 1 <i>Morus nigra</i> 1 <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> ‘Gallisoniensis’ 1 <i>Magnolia x loebneri</i> ‘Leonard Messel’ 1 <i>Amelanchier</i> ‘Robin Hill’
Freedom Park	3 <i>Prunus</i> ‘Sunset Boulevard’ 2 <i>Platanus x hispanica</i> 1 <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Haddington Road	1 <i>Tilia cordata</i> ‘Rancho’
Herbert Street Play Park	2 <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> 1 <i>Quercus robur</i> 1 <i>Prunus avium</i> ‘Plena’ 1 <i>Morus nigra</i>
Lower Street	9 <i>Malus</i> ‘Rudolph’ 3 <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ‘Laciniata’ 3 <i>Betula utilis</i> ‘Jacquemontii’
North Cross roundabout	4 <i>Quercus</i> ‘Regal Prince’
Radford Road Park (West Hoe)	1 <i>Malus</i> ‘Rudolph’

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Segrave Road

2 *Tilia cordata x mongolica* 'Harvest Gold'
2 *Acer platanoides* 'Columnare'
1 *Acer platanoides* 'Cleveland'
2 *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon'
3 *Sorbus aria* 'Majestica'
4 *Acer campestre* 'Elsrijk'
3 *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum'

Victoria Park

2 *Crataegus x lavalleyi*
1 *Cedrus deodara*
1 *Wollemia nobilis*

Devonport Park (below Park Avenue)

7 *Quercus ilex*
9 *Pinus radiata*
10 *Betula nigra*
11 *Betula utilis* 'Jacquemontii'
3 *Betula ermanii*
10 *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Fastigiata'
5 *Mespilus germanica* 'Nottingham'
5 *Mespilus germanica* 'Royal'
3 *Cydonia oblonga* 'Champion'
3 *Cydonia oblonga* 'Serbian Gold'
3 *Cydonia oblonga* 'Aromatayna'
5 *Morus nigra*
3 *Pyrus communis* 'Invincible'
3 *Pyrus communis* 'Pachams Triumph'
3 *Pyrus communis* 'Benita rafzas'
2 *Malus domestica* 'Discovery'
2 *Malus domestica* 'Cornish Mother'
2 *Malus domestica* 'Fair Maid of Devon'
2 *Malus domestica* 'Star of Devon'
2 *Malus domestica* 'Fops in Wine'
2 *Malus domestica* 'Pigs Nose'
2 'St Kea' plum trees
3 *Juglans regia*
3 *Juglans regia* 'Broadview'

A total of 202 trees were planted in 15 different locations. Of the total, 105 were standard trees and 97 were smaller sizes.

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Annex C – Tree care and surveys

Plymouth Tree Partnership's volunteer Tree Wardens provided care for young trees or looked for problems on established trees in the following places in 2019-20.

Adelaide Park	Barbara Hampson
Astor Park	Becka Adams James Kazer
Beaumont Park	Chris Hunt
Burleigh Park Road	Tina Wilson
Careswell Avenue	Dave Curno
Central Park	Ian Teague (Pounds Park) Alan Harvey and Chris Hunt (Family Tree Field) Martin Blacher
Freedom Park	Jacques Marchal
Ham Woods	Dave Curno
Hoe Park	Keith Tarrant
Manor Street	Barbara Hampson
Patna Park	Zita Moyse
Pemros Road	Ken Hamblin
Prynne Close	Diane Barrall
Radford Park	Kevin Warley Jenny Floyd
Radford Woods	Andy Anderson (until 15 th January 2020)
Staddiscombe Playing Fields	Alan and Menza Ramage
Thorn Park	Gloria Dixon
Torr Lane	Roy and Liz Harris
Tothill Park	Charlie Dawson Nick Reid
Victoria Park	Zita Moyse
Mobile Tree Wardens	Diane Barrall
	Heather Barriball
	Martin Blacher
	Alan Harvey
	David and Teresa Frost
	Chris Hunt
	Charles Kelly
	John Stone
Andrew Young	

Volunteer Tree Wardens spent a total of 930 hours on practical tasks in 2019-20.