

A Sylvan foray to  
start the weekend

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# A Sylvan foray to start the weekend

- ❖ Why trees matter
- ❖ Local tree initiatives
- ❖ How you can help
- ❖ Photo competition and award prize



“The one who plants trees,  
knowing that they will  
never sit in their shade,  
has at least started to  
understand the meaning  
of life.”

(Rabindranath Tagore)

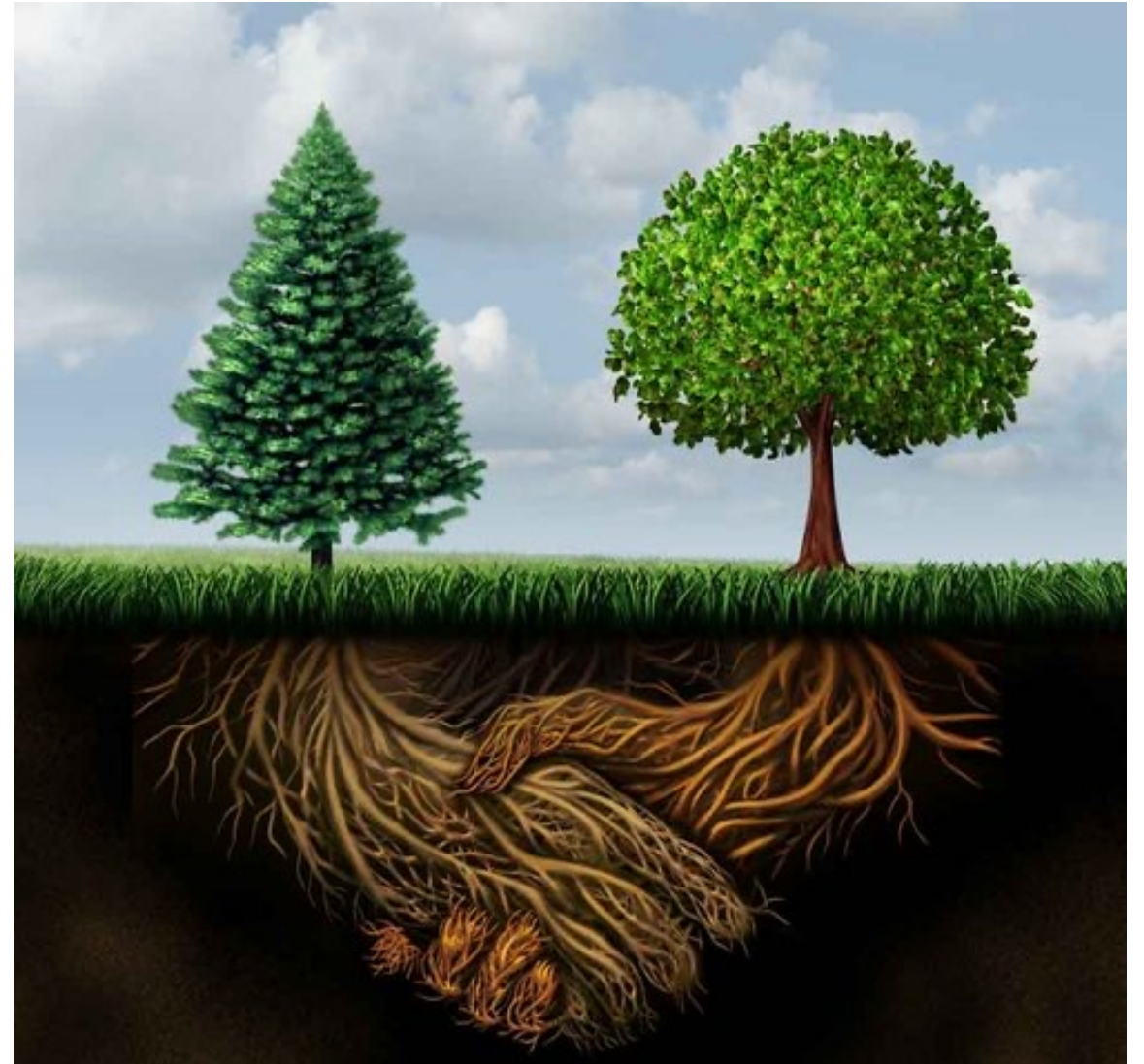
Photo: That Wanaka Tree, New Zealand



# Why trees matter

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- Health Benefit
- Reduce Air pollution
- Shade
- Flood mitigation
- Biodiversity
- Storing carbon
- Producing oxygen
- Medicines and food
- We are tree deprived in Shoreham!



# “I Took A Walk In The Woods And Came Out Taller Than The Trees”

- Henry David Thoreau

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- Phytoncides and terpenes or wood essential oils
  - Stimulate immune systems' killer cell production
  - Reduces stress, cortisol levels, sympathetic nerve activity, blood pressure = physiological relaxation
  - Biophilic effect – drawing emotional nourishment from structures that follow general biological rules of composition, eg. fractal scaling, patterns and geometry.
  - Just the sight of trees has been shown to help eg through a window!



# Trees:

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- produce c28% of our oxygen
- form a physical barrier between people and pollutants
- remove particulate pollution from the air by catching tiny particles on leaf surfaces and bark esp. plane, birch
- their stomata and lenticels absorb and break down gaseous pollutants (SO<sub>2</sub>,NO<sub>2</sub>,CO<sub>2</sub>)



# The cooling effect of trees

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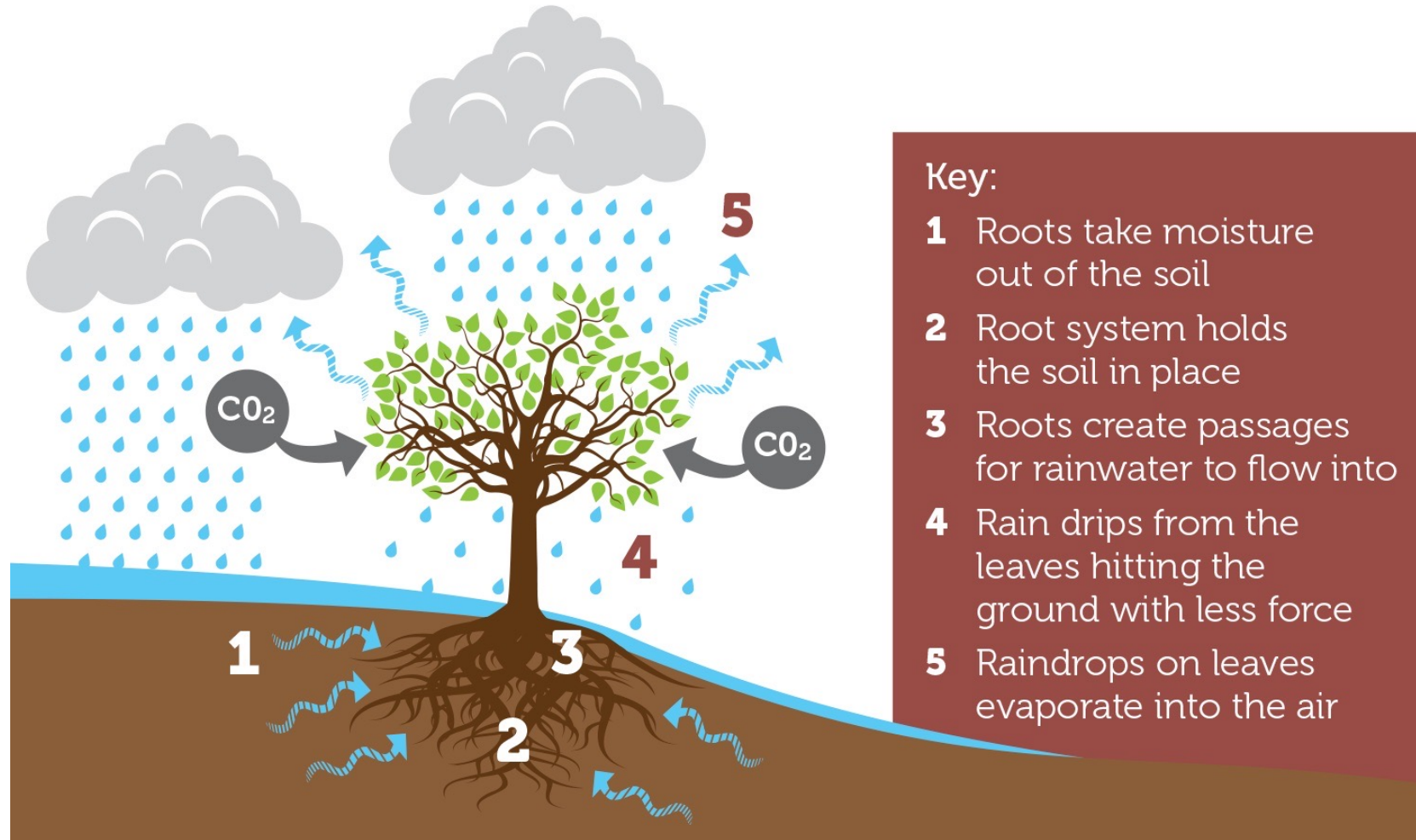
- Urban heat has been shown to be reduced by having trees
- Huge potential to reduce heat related urban deaths in Europe
- Dig up some concrete?
- Reducing air temperatures reduces the concentration of pollutants



# Storing carbon – how does that work?

- Using light energy to change water and carbon dioxide into sugar and oxygen. The glucose contains carbon, and this is transported around the tree and used as energy to grow.
- Locked up carbon stays there when the tree is harvested and used for furniture, for example, released when it is burnt or, much more slowly when it rots
- Forestry England tool to calculate how much carbon is in any given tree  
[https://www.forestryengland.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Teacher%20resources\\_CalculatingCarbon.pdf](https://www.forestryengland.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Teacher%20resources_CalculatingCarbon.pdf)
- Letting old trees stand is best! The Poplar?

# Flood mitigation



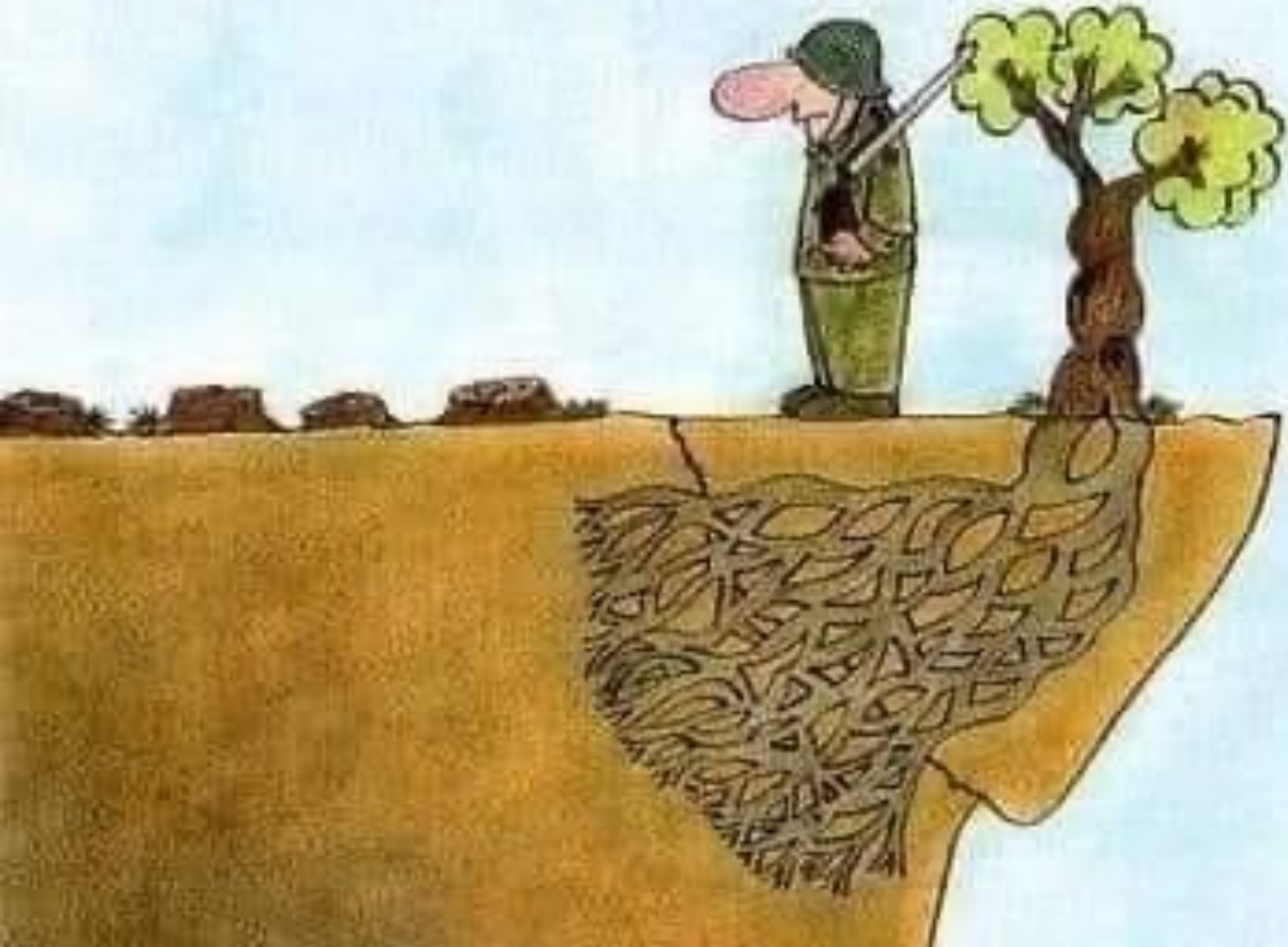
# Biodiversity

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“Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day.”

— *Shira Tamir*





# Your Favourite Shoreham Tree Competition

Cast your vote by circling the number on your favourite photograph, hand your sheet in so we can count the votes and announce the winner at the end of the evening and award the prize.

# Shoreham Poplar Front

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- The only tree on the Brighton Road, between Worthing Pier and Brighton Pier.
- Summer 2022 : Camp established/Occupation/community awareness and engagement. 8/10/22 : Day of Action. 300 supporters.
- Alternative plans submitted with tree retained. May 2023 SPF Won!
- 17/6/23 Shoreham celebrates saving of the Grey Poplar!
- Volunteers continue weekly to confirm the internal integrity of the fence.....



“The best time  
to plant a tree is  
20 years ago.  
The second-best  
time is now.”

- Chinese proverb

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# More Trees Please

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Donated c150 trees to parks, schools and public spaces since 2021

Some 200 trees in the nursery

Watering critical for young trees

If you can help in any of these locations contact: Chris Platt at [shorehamtrees@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamtrees@gmail.com) or phone 07919823923



Brooklands Park, Adur  
Recreation Ground, Buckingham  
Park, Middle Road Recreation  
Ground, Church Square

# TREE ACTION

A black silhouette of a tree with its arms raised, positioned centrally below the text 'TREE ACTION'.

*Connecting Young People with the  
Environment Through Tree Planting and Care*

# TreeAction - Delivering Tree planting and Maintenance Projects for young people

## What we do:

- Organise and raise funds for tree planting projects in schools, colleges, or on public and private land in Sussex and deliver them.
- Provide plans for regular care of the trees planted to get them established
- Connect young people and their families with the environment, support their mental well-being
- Provide an opportunity to learn about and care for trees, and make their own positive contributions to tackling climate change and improving the local environment

# What we have delivered to date

**Warden Park Academy** – 56 trees paid for and planted on the school site including an orchard of 24 fruit trees with protection from deer, tree planting day event.

**Buckingham Park Primary** – 48 trees paid for and planted on the school site including cherry, plums, pears, acers, walnut, Indian bean tree, plus 3 planting day events and maintenance plan

**Eastbrook primary academy** – 12 woodland trees including oaks and limes, tree planting day event and maintenance plan

**Brunswick School** – 5 Silver birch trees on site with students planting them, providing accessories for their forest school

**Oak Grove College** – 25 trees including plums, hazels and pears funded by CIL to be planted by March 2024, 3 tree planting events. We have also paid for a range of tools, wheelbarrows and accessories for the SEN forest school students

**Woodgate Primary Academy** – 20 fruit and woodland trees to be planted Feb 24

**Community Projects in Adur** - Over 200 trees planted in 4 public sites at *Adur Rec, Southwick Rec, Middle Road Rec, Buckingham Park* in the Adur District

Connected families and young people including those with SEN needs to these projects

Taken groups of students from two schools to regular tree planting oak trees in Buckingham Park



# **TreeAction – Future Plans**

- **To grow from being volunteer led organisation**
- **To develop a tree watering team of volunteers from the corporate sector (Southern Water on board)**
- **To continue to deliver at least 2 school tree planting projects per season**
- **To engage more families and children in the region with outdoor conservation and care of trees we have planted**

# GET IN TOUCH AND GET INVOLVED...

[www.treereactionuk.org](http://www.treereactionuk.org)

News: [News | Tree Action UK](#)

Donate via Crowdfunder: [TreeAction projects for More Sussex Schools - a Community crowdfunding project in Hove by Tree Action UK \(crowdfunder.co.uk\)](#)

Support Us as A Business: [Support Us As A Business | Tree Action UK](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TreeActionUk>

X: [treereactionuk \(@treereactionuk\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

Email: [info@treereaction.org.uk](mailto:info@treereaction.org.uk)



# The Birch Tree Project

Dr Richard Stow, Helen Mason,  
Carol Springgay, Spencer Chapman

2024



# The Birch Tree Project

- Brainchild of Dr Richard Stow, Ecologist and Environmental Engineer
- He noticed healthy birch saplings being destroyed as part of heathland management and saw their ecological value
- We are Carol & Spencer, Richard & Helen. We work with Leonie from Transition Town Shoreham
- We work with rangers at Ashdown Forest and Hesworth Common. We salvage unwanted saplings and distribute them into the community





We rehomed  
Over 1000  
trees from  
2021-2023

- *Gardens, fields, public spaces, schools, community groups, hospices & businesses in Sussex*
- *Including 50 trees in Shoreham gardens, Greenacres and Glebe School*



# Why birch trees? The benefits ...

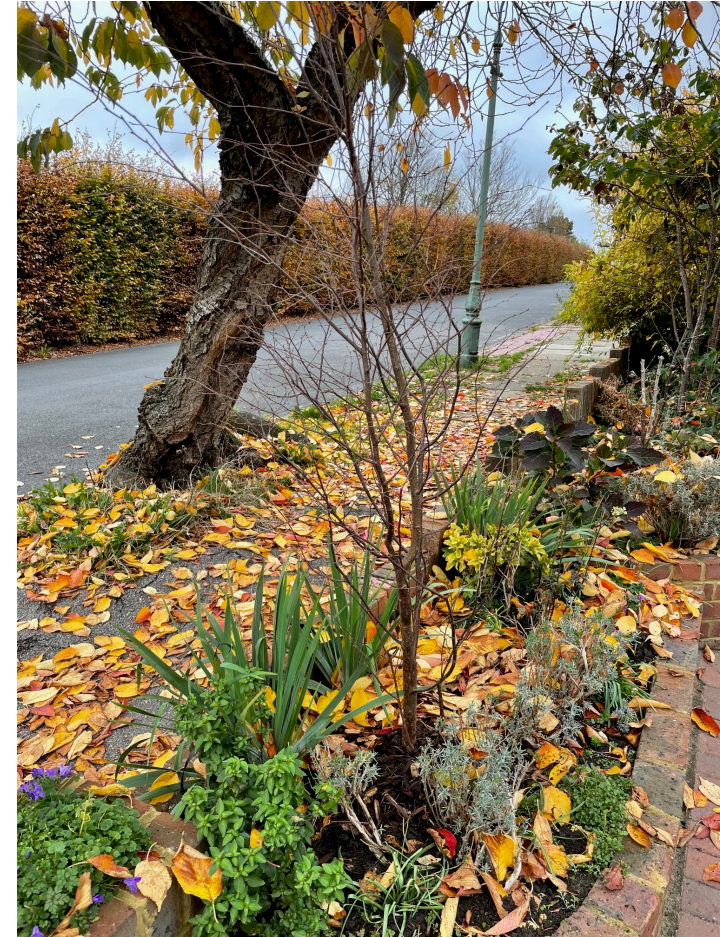
- Birch Trees are second only to oak in promoting **biodiversity**, they are great for **birds and wildlife**. They have local provenance. Light canopy, minimal leaf litter.
- BBC2 Trust me I'm a doctor Michael Moseley did some [research](#) with 24 silver birch trees outside 4 homes on a stretch of the A6. Lancashire.
- He found that within 2 weeks **polluting particulate matter** was reduced by **50-60% inside those homes**, versus the 4 neighbouring homes with no trees in front.
- Examination under electron microscope showed the birch captured particulate pollution in the hairs and ridges of their leaves.





# Considerations when planting birch

- *Birch likes full light and moist well drained soil*
- *Birch can grow up to 20m tall but can be crown pruned at 2-3m to limit height, it will then bush out*
- *Shallow rooting so we advise to plant at least 5m from drains, buildings, walls*
- *Birch can be planted singly, in groups or even a tiny forest*
- *Newly planted saplings must be kept moist in drought conditions in order to survive.*



King George VI Ave, Hove



- Bareroot saplings are £5-25 (4-9ft)
- Grown on for a year improved roots & survival rate £10-30 (4-9ft)
- We are looking to become a CIC not for profit social enterprise with the aim to rehome more birch trees plus Oak, Scots Pine, Rowan, Cherry and more.



# Our tree nursery

- We have a tree nursery at the Secret Garden, Shark Park, Fishersgate with about 200 trees available.
- We have been offered nursery space at Devils Dyke and have plans to negotiate more space in Southwick.
- Next week we are supporting Sussex Police Green champions to clear birch from their training site up at Ashdown forest. Half the saplings will be distributed by Green transition Crowborough to the local community and half to us.
- We are liaising with the developers such as Lovell to see how we can help salvage saplings from sites before development





We are keen to plant more birch in suitable gardens, green spaces, schools, businesses, Community projects etc. so please do get in touch with us if you would like any.

Visit us on Facebook to find out when we are open:

**The Birch Tree Project**

Email:  
[thebirchtreeproject@gmail.com](mailto:thebirchtreeproject@gmail.com)

Thank you for listening!

# Open Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2-4pm Shark Park

check out Facebook: The Birch Tree Project  
for more dates we are open

or email us on [thebirchtreeproject@gmail.com](mailto:thebirchtreeproject@gmail.com)  
to arrange a convenient time as we live just 5  
minutes from the tree nursery

# Donate a Tree Scheme

- West Sussex County Council residents can pay for a tree to be planted on a council owned verge where they live
- WSCC offer site assessment, supply and planting of an “extra heavy standard” tree, staked, with irrigation tube and strimmer guard.
- Choose from a list of trees suitable to your location
- WSCC will visit and maintain once a year for the first 3 years
- £236.20 per tree up till April 2024.
- Streets have fundraised to buy several trees for their roads, and to take on the watering (Rosslyn Rd, Gordon Rd, Park Avenue, Crown Rd, Hawkins Crescent and more)



# Transition Town Shoreham

Part of an international movement aimed at rebuilding communities to be less dependent on scarce resources, more resilient, humane and fun

Initiatives can include, growing food, recycling, re-using, repairing, planting trees, energy schemes and much more.



# Transition Town Pilot: Crown Road

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- Tree Quiz at the Coronation Street party May 2023
- Leaflets to all houses, calls and chats
- Crowdfunder and street Facebook page
- £945 raised, by July WSCC deadline
- 5 trees planted December 2023

# Transition Town Shoreham Street Tree Project

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- Polls voted for More Street Trees
- Fewer trees in less affluent areas
- Keen to engage communities through planting trees or other features
- Bid for TT funds
- Project about to start





# How can you help?

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- Be a guerrilla planter?
- Plant trees in your own outside space
- Volunteer to water trees locally
- Run your own Donate a Tree scheme where you live
- Deliver leaflets for our Transition Town Street Tree project
- Defend trees before they are threatened - Tree Protection Orders etc.

# Keeping in touch:

- Transition Town Shoreham: [www.transitiontownshoreham.org](http://www.transitiontownshoreham.org) or email [transitionsshoreham@gmail.com](mailto:transitionsshoreham@gmail.com)
- West Sussex County Council Donate a Tree Scheme: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/verge-maintenance/donate-a-tree-scheme/>
- The Birch Tree Project: [thebirchtreeproject@gmail.com](mailto:thebirchtreeproject@gmail.com)
- More Trees Please: [shorehamtrees@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamtrees@gmail.com) or phone 07919823923
- Tree Action: [www.treeactionuk.org](http://www.treeactionuk.org) or email [info@treeaction.org.uk](mailto:info@treeaction.org.uk)



**“Trees are poems that the  
earth writes upon the sky.”**

— *Kahlil Gibran*

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Your  
Favourite  
Shoreham  
Tree  
Competition

And the winner is.....