

# Plymouth Tree People

England & Wales · Charity number 1161565

## Details

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**Other names** PLYMOUTH TREE PARTNERSHIP

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2015-05-07

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE, FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE PLANTING, CARE, NURTURE AND CULTIVATION OF TREES, IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH.

**Activities:** Manages a network of volunteers and professionals who work to conserve and improve urban trees. Arranges meetings to educate people about trees. Manages the Family Tree Scheme in Plymouth. Encourages groups to suggest places for new tree planting, and co-ordinates delivery actions. Keeps a record of newly planted trees and ensures they receive the nurture required.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Plymouth City

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£54,470	£42,229	-	-
2024-03-31	£66,944	£36,022	-	-
2023-03-31	£4,087	£5,979	-	-
2022-03-31	£1,762	£3,469	-	-
2021-03-31	£14,618	£2,355	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Young		2020-12-08
David Mark Curno		2021-02-23
Louise Henry		2024-07-17
Matthew John Underwood		2023-07-05
Penny Tarrant		2019-06-19
Roger Nicholas Atkin		2018-08-21

**Plymouth Tree People**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161565

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# Accounts

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1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report

## Objectives

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Plymouth Tree People's mission is to help others plant, care for and learn about trees. Each aspect is important when supporting individuals and communities seeking to improve their special places with trees.

This year, Trustees have found themselves increasingly asked to help with retaining existing mature trees being threatened by new developments. In places as diverse as Armada Way, Wilmot Gardens, the Hoe and Woolwell, they have needed to point out how more existing trees could have been retained had the schemes' designers been presented with a broader remit, especially to give greater weight to the sense of place considerations.

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## Planning and planting new and replacement trees

As a charity, Plymouth Tree People would want to satisfy every request it receives for new and replacement trees. Resources are finite, however, and it can be difficult identifying where needs are greatest. For this reason, Trustees developed a scoring matrix based on the Woodland Trust's tree equity model but modified to take account of factors like ease of delivery, availability of funding, levels of support and local impact. The matrix has helped with prioritising projects and explaining why some have had to be declined or left on the waiting list.

Productive relationships with Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF) staff and with Plymouth City Council's Green Estates Team have seen Plymouth Tree People lead with planning and delivering projects in these places during the year:

- ★ Flats on Devonport Hill - Working with Plymouth Community Homes, 5 multi-stem Himalayan birch and a dogwood hedge were planted to enclose a grassy area and make a sitting-out place on 11<sup>th</sup> March. PTP were also able to obtain funding for a picnic bench.



# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2024-25

- ★ Victoria Park - 16 trees, selected for their interest and amenity value, were planted in gaps along the park's southern edge and around the playground on 21<sup>st</sup> February.
- ★ Radford Park - 12 trees were added to the park's growing arboretum on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Two street tree projects requiring contract support were approved late in the season and they will now be planted in autumn 2025. They are to fill 12 empty tree pits between the Life Centre and Home Park stadium, and 6 empty pits on Durnford Street.



The project to plant 12 trees on Patna Park's dog exercise area had to be paused at the last minute while an issue around land ownership was investigated and it is anticipated that planting can take place early in the next reporting year. The approved plan for planting 17 trees in the open spaces around the Wingfield Road flats had to be suspended at the last minute because Plymouth City Council wanted to reassess future development options across the city. The trees that were delivered are being husbanded over summer in the hope that the approved plans can be resumed in time for the coming planting season.

All the above projects were funded under the government's 'Trees for Climate' programme, which is managed locally by the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest through its 'Neighbourwood' scheme. Other grants and donations have made it possible to plant trees in these places:

- ★ Tothill Park - An English oak, grown from an acorn from the Meavy Oak was planted on 1st November in a space deserving of a large, long-lived tree.
- ★ Mutley Park and Thorn Park - A mulberry and a golden rain tree were planted on 29th November. The mulberry was to introduce a focal point between two rows of fruit trees and the golden rain to fill a gap in the parks' interesting collection of trees.
- ★ Central Park - Coronation Avenue. 2 red horse chestnuts were planted on 17th January to fill gaps in the avenue commemorating the coronation of King George VI in 1937.
- ★ Freedom Park - An Amelanchier purchased by Plymouth Tree People was planted by the Friends Group in February to fill a gap in the park's central avenue.
- ★ Patna Park - A whitebeam was planted at the southern end of the park on 7th March to replace a young tree that had failed to establish.

# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2024-25

In addition, Plymouth Tree People members supported planting days on Central Park's golf course and at Stonehouse Creek, both of which were arranged by PCC's Green Communities team, and on the Hoe where the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum had arranged for another 15 trees to be added to the young orchard there.

We continue to receive requests to help with planting commemorative trees. The Family Tree Scheme in Central Park closed in 2022, so any new planting depends on finding an appropriate site. There are many hurdles, and, regrettably, it has not been possible to satisfy most potential donors although we managed to help one family plant a seedling oak in a site overlooking the Sound.

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## Caring for young trees

### Tree Wardens

Plymouth Tree People depends on its volunteer Tree Wardens for tending young trees and explaining why such work is necessary. Trustees have actively sought opportunities to broaden Tree Warden skills and to build their confidence, which have included these training events:

- ★ Aftercare techniques - Tree Wardens learn most from working with others, but this can be difficult for those in full-time employment. To fill the gap and attract people interested in becoming a Tree Warden, a two-hour taster session was held at the Family Tree Field in Central Park on Saturday, 21st September.
- ★ First aid - 8 Tree Wardens attended a First Aid at Work course on 9th May 2024, and further courses are being planned with the aim of having most Tree Wardens qualified in first aid.
- ★ Hedge laying - 4 Tree Wardens attended a hedge laying course run by the Devon Rural Skills Trust near Totnes on 11th January.
- ★ Fruit tree pruning - 7 Tree Wardens attended a fruit tree pruning workshop on 8th March run by local experts Tess Wilmot and Dave Curno at Keyham Green Places and in Alexandra Park.

A locally produced competency framework was launched during the year to help Tree Wardens see for themselves how their tree skills and knowledge are developing. It is aimed to share it more widely once its usefulness is confirmed.

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2024-25

There were 54 Tree Wardens on the roll at the end of March 2025, and the areas they cover are shown at Appendix A. Together with other volunteers, they have spent more than 2000 hours on practical activities throughout the year.

The mobile group has met every 3 weeks between September and April to provide additional effort where needed most, and it has been well supported. They have assisted park groups and individual Tree Wardens in these places, sometimes with a coffee break included to provide a welcome social dimension:



26 <sup>th</sup> April	Hoe orchard – last of 2024 tree care season
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Devonport Park – Ferry Road Field
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Blockhouse Park
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Tothill Park
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Herbert Street playground
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Orchard in Zoo Field, Central Park
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Orchard below Swarthmore allotments in Central Park
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Astor Playing Field

## Watering young trees

We know the importance of watering young trees in their first few years and how demanding this can be for volunteers. Trees for Climate funding enabled us to contract Glendale Countryside to water the trees they planted in Beacon Park Road and Wilton Street in 2024, and irrigation bags were fitted to minimise the time involved.

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2024-25

In addition, 'water me' tags were attached to the trees to encourage local involvement. The response was generally favourable, which led us to develop a 'Watering Hero' scheme whereby individuals could commit to watering one or more trees. They were supported with tips for staying safe and watering effectively, as well as a free hi-viz vest and watering can if needed. Trustees expect to develop the scheme further in 2025.



Also, for the approaching summer, Plymouth Tree People has awarded a contract for watering selected trees to a local company, Miller's Cleaning Specialists. Their vans are fitted with tanks and long hoses but practical considerations mean that they can only provide enough water for a tree's basic needs. More water will be needed for trees to thrive and local people and PTP members are encouraged to participate as much as possible.

## Corporate volunteering

Enquiries about corporate volunteering opportunities have started to pick up after the Covid pandemic and Plymouth Tree People were pleased to host 11 staff from SUEZ Recycling and Waste Management Services on 18<sup>th</sup> October. With a threatening weather forecast, they concentrated on mulching trees on the Family Tree Field in Central Park but also found time to plant two replacement trees, follow a pruning demonstration and plant a hundred bluebells.

A similar package of practical work could be provided in any of Plymouth's major parks and Trustees are considering whether to develop a formal corporate volunteering offer.



# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2024-25

## Surveying established trees

Plymouth City Council records its trees on an asset management system. There are hopes that, in future, suitably trained volunteers may be able to assist by comparing the state of individual trees against the recorded information and advising what changes are necessary. This will allow tree officers to focus on the most pressing issues and the city's canopy cover should improve as a result. A training session was held on 18<sup>th</sup> April and three pilot surveys have taken place on the Hoe since then with several teething issues being encountered.

## Learning about trees

The final lesson of a six-part course took place on 26<sup>th</sup> April when its tutor, Dom Scanlon from Aspect Tree Consultancy, led a walk through Drake's Gardens and the streets around The Box to appraise the area's trees. This lesson was joined by a few Tree Wardens.

## Urban Tree Festival

This was the second year of Plymouth's participation in what has become an annual national fixture since the first Urban Tree Festival in London in 2018. Plymouth Tree People's co-ordinator, Alison White, invited groups and individuals to hold an event of their choosing and 43 separate activities were held across the festival period from 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024, all bookable through the dedicated website she had set up. They included walks and talks, mindfulness and exercise sessions, art and craft classes, and poetry and story-telling groups. Bat-watching walks were especially popular with adults and the expert tuition in tree climbing skills with children.



There were 800 attendees in total, 300 hours of volunteer time were recorded and £400 was collected in donations. The variety of events at Plymouth's two festivals has been commended by the festival's national organising committee.

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2024-25

## Evening talks

Accomplished speakers have opened our eyes to a range of different tree-related topics as summarised here:

- 15<sup>th</sup> April            Establishing a Community Forest in Plymouth and South Devon. Peter Hawking-Sach, the Forest's programme manager, and Stephen Hill, its projects' co-ordinator, described their work and future objectives.
- 16<sup>th</sup> May             Tree Equity and Environmental Justice. Kenton Rogers shared his wide experience as a Chartered Forester and Environmentalist to explain how urban trees make better places to live and work.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September    The History of Tree Huggers and Why It's Not an Insult. Liz Richmond, who founded Rebel Botanists, spoke about the fascinating and surprising history of the term 'tree hugger'.
- 25<sup>th</sup> November     Scanning Britain's most Ancient Oak Trees. Dr Cecilia Chavana-Bryant attracted a full audience when she explained the research techniques used to understand how ancient oaks have acquired their own unique shapes.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February        The Suffragette Arboretum. Shelley Castle and Anne-Marie Culhane from the Walking Forest group told the incredible story of the Suffragette Arboretum planted in Batheaston, Somerset, between April 1909 and July 1911, to commemorate individual suffragettes and suffragists. We also heard about plans to plant an 'Intentional Woodland' to celebrate women who stand up for and protect the natural world.

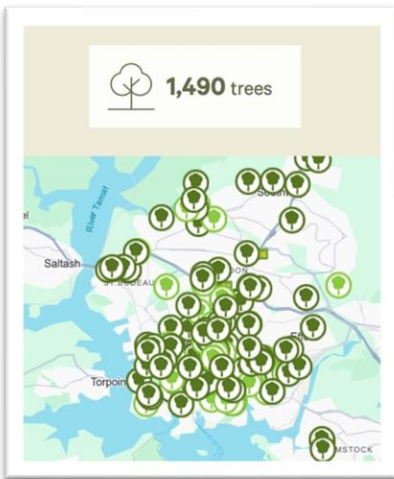
## Trees, People and the Built Environment conference

Plymouth Tree People's Trustees attended this high-profile conference, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, using remote-working technology. Collaboration, both across sectors and disciplines, was seen as essential for providing the high-quality places that people want to have. We also heard that not-for-profit groups such as Plymouth Tree People are often regarded as 'thought leaders' regarding amenity trees.

## Regional Tree Warden conference

Nine Tree Wardens attended this annual conference organised by The Tree Council, which was held this year in Bodmin on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024. There were the usual stimulating talks and a guided walk around some recent 'Forest for Cornwall' plantings to show the different techniques being trialled to reduce interference by browsing animals and careless humans.

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2024-25



## Tree projects map

Details of tree projects which Plymouth Tree People has either led or supported since 2010 were entered into a spreadsheet and then translated into a graphical map display for the charity's website. It means that anyone can see instantly where new or replacement trees have been planted, whilst behind each pin is a photo gallery and description of what each project entailed.

## Library display

Plymouth's central library willingly made space for a display about trees at the beginning of National Tree Week and Plymouth Tree People members attended to chat to visitors. Alison White, Plymouth Tree People's co-ordinator, had thoughtfully provided colouring and cut-out materials for children, which kept them engaged while parents told us their hopes and fears for the city's trees.



## Guided walks

In addition to 13 guided walks as part of the Urban Tree Festival, walks in Alexandra Park after the AGM and in Ham Woods during National Tree Week discussed how trees and woods are constantly changing living systems and how management should be tuned to their needs.

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## Organisation and administration

### Tree Warden co-ordinator

In addition to her community engagement role, Alison White relieved Andrew Young as co-ordinator for the city's Tree Warden network on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. The main development during

# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2024-25

Andrew's long tenure was establishing the mobile group to support individual Tree Wardens and others caring for trees. It has increased the network's effectiveness by providing a focus for action.

### Trustees

Chris Hunt stepped down at the 2024 Annual General Meeting, having served for a second term as a Trustee. His knowledge of practical conservation work has been especially valuable when addressing Tree Warden matters and he oversaw the purchase of a road trailer to support volunteering activities. We are very grateful that Chris continues to instruct other Tree Wardens and is always ready to collect and deliver materials for group sessions.

Louise Henry was elected as a Trustee at the 2024 AGM and brings with her an extensive background in ecological management.

Trustees act in a voluntary capacity and the following have served during the year from 1st April 2024:

Roger Atkin	Treasurer
Dave Curno	
Louise Henry	
Penny Tarrant	Chair
Matt Underwood	
Andrew Young	Secretary

All trustees are actively involved in managing the charity and they have access to all its records and policies, including the Charity Commission document 'The Essential Trustee.' No incidents of a serious nature occurred during the year.

### Developing Plymouth's Plan for Trees

Plymouth Tree People is represented on the Plan for Trees steering group which exists to develop and implement tree-related policies. This year, its discussions have included how to attract and manage sponsorship offers, how Plymouth's tree initiatives might be co-ordinated with other plans and how tree equity might be applied in practice.

### Funding

The unspent balance of grant from the Co-op's Local Community Fund in 2019 was used to close a gap in one of the Family Tree Field's hedge banks. It had become something of a thoroughfare and was starting to spoil the quietude which many enjoyed under nearby trees.

As already appreciated, the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest funded most the planting projects undertaken this year. In addition, we were grateful for a Community Forest funding grant to support the Urban Tree Festival in 2024 and ongoing community engagement throughout the year.

# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2024-25

The courses in hedge laying and fruit tree pruning were enabled by a Tree Council funding programme, and we greatly appreciate the Tree Council's readiness to search for and advise about similar opportunities.

The course in first aid training was funded out of the grant awarded by the Benefact Group in August 2023 to increase the charity's capacity.

The charity's aim to retain sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating for a minimum period of twelve months was achieved across the whole year.

### **Thanks**

So many individuals have given their time or money to growing Plymouth's tree canopy and explaining to others why it is so important. The planting days especially were well supported and sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed in some way; it would be impossible to name them all.

We have received warm hospitality from Snapdragons at the eastern end of Victoria Park, the Park Pharmacy Trust in Thorn Park and Keyham Green Places by Alexandra Park for different events during the year. It makes a big difference to be welcomed inside when the weather is threatening, and to enjoy the food and drink so thoughtfully provided.

Richard Cosgrave from Beside the Box has kindly overseen the Office 365 suite provided by Microsoft with free licences for qualifying charities as he has done for us for over nine years. It involved considerable work recently to migrate the charity's files into Sharepoint as a better technical solution than the previous team drive.

We are most grateful to chartered accountant, Paul Marker, who has carried out the independent examination of PTP's annual accounts for the seventh consecutive year, each time generously providing this professional service free of charge.

Mark Thomas from Nettiio has been similarly generous with his administration of Plymouth Tree People's website and social media accounts for a second year, as well as offering charity rates when developing new online services, such as the map of tree projects and a call for Watering Heroes.

As in previous years, we admire the work that the teams in Plymouth City Council's Street Services and Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest do for trees, and hope they benefit from having us around as much as we do them.

All this freely given support makes a massive difference to Plymouth Tree People's reach and is very gratefully appreciated.

### **In numbers**

Plymouth Tree People has:

- 352 Members including 54 who are Tree Wardens

Contributing:

- More than 2000 volunteer hours, planting and caring for trees

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2024-25

## Achieving:

- 41 trees planted, with PTP as the lead partner
- More than 500 young trees tended
- 15 guided walks
- 5 educational talks

## Appendix A – Tree care and surveys

Plymouth Tree People’s volunteer Tree Wardens have been delivering care to young trees or undertaking tree surveys in the following places during 2024-25.

Location	Tree Warden
Central Park	Martin Blacher Chris Hunt (Family Tree Field) Nicola Westlake (Alma Road) Matt Underwood (Swarthmore Orchard) Amanda Pannell
Cremyll Street	Mick Nightingale Sue Johns
Devonport Park	Fairfax Luxmoore
Down Horn Park orchard	Nigel Jackson
Freedom Park	Jacques Marchal Jasper Bradley Krista Dunkers
Haddington Road	Fairfax Luxmoore
Ham Woods	Dave Curno
The Hoe	Marcus Knight
Patna Park	Ali White Mark Thomas Emily Triplett
Pemros Road	Ken Hamblin
Plympton	David Frost
Plymstock	Alice Thompson Emma Stuckey
Pryne Close	Diane Barrall
Radford Park	Kevin Warley Jenny Floyd
Staddiscombe Playing Fields	Alan and Menza Ramage
Thorn Park	Gloria Dixon
Torr Lane	Roy and Liz Harris
Tothill Park	Nick Reid
Mobile Group	26 Tree Wardens who lend a hand anywhere.

**PLYMOUTH TREE PEOPLE**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Natural England (project) grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,490.00
Movement for Good donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
PCC Trees for Climate (project) grants	0.00	51,835.68	51,835.68	47,304.00
Other charitable donations	1,168.42	0.00	1,168.42	4,097.60
For the love of trees book - receipts	164.00	0.00	164.00	593.89
Plymouth Armada Way book - receipts	245.23	0.00	245.23	658.81
Member Donations	370.00	0.00	370.00	467.00
Gift Aid (including £0.07 interest)	57.57	0.00	57.57	113.08
Interest	629.14	0.00	629.14	219.73
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>2,634.36</b>	<b>51,835.68</b>	<b>54,470.04</b>	<b>66,944.11</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Natural England (project)	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,156.36
Co-op Local Community Fund (project)	0.00	1,553.80	1,553.80	394.18
Trees for Climate costs (project)	0.00	30,340.70	30,340.70	23,684.24
Tree Warden training lecture payment	660.00	0.00	660.00	0.00
Use of Office Space	720.00	0.00	720.00	720.00
Insurance	242.72	0.00	242.72	182.42
Tree Council membership	175.00	0.00	175.00	175.00
Co-ordinator	6,625.00	0.00	6,625.00	3,200.00
Other payments	1,911.51	0.00	1,911.51	1,510.29
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>10,334.23</b>	<b>31,894.50</b>	<b>42,228.73</b>	<b>36,022.49</b>
Net receipts (payments)	-7,699.87	19,941.18	12,241.31	30,921.62
Transfer between funds	4,333.30	-4,333.30	0.00	0.00
Cash funds last year end	13,638.83	44,297.87	57,936.70	27,015.08
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>10,272.26</b>	<b>59,905.75</b>	<b>70,178.01</b>	<b>57,936.70</b>
PTP Current Account	1,459.11	0.00	1,459.11	2,496.70
PTP Savings Accounts	8,873.15	59,905.75	68,778.90	55,500.00
less Rental accrual	-60.00	0.00	-60.00	-60.00
	<b>10,272.26</b>	<b>59,905.75</b>	<b>70,178.01</b>	<b>57,936.70</b>

**Note:**

The transfer of **£4,333.30** (above) from restricted to unrestricted funds is made up of the balances remaining in respect of several old, fully completed projects.

This Financial Statement for Plymouth Tree People continues overleaf.

Please Turn Over

**Plymouth Tree People**

**Statement of Major Assets & Liabilities**

	This Year	This Year	This Year	Last Year	Last Year	Last Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	£	Funds	Funds	£
<b>Major Assets</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank (see above)	10,332.26	59,905.75	70,238.01	13,698.83	44,297.87	57,996.70
12 x tree guards at valuation	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00
PTP road trailer at valuation	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Office IT Synology back up system at valuation	576.00	0.00	576.00	720.00	0.00	720.00
Cat scanner at valuation	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tool store tools at valuation	624.25	0.00	624.25	721.05	0.00	721.05
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>16,532.51</b>	<b>59,905.75</b>	<b>76,438.26</b>	<b>19,939.88</b>	<b>44,297.87</b>	<b>64,237.75</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Rental accrual included in receipts and payments	60.00	0.00	60.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
Supplier invoice received in March, paid in April 2025	0.00	429.65	429.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>429.65</b>	<b>489.65</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>

**Additional information:**

In addition to the specific liabilities detailed above, Plymouth Tree People expects further invoiced expenditure in connection with tree plantings funded by the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest under its Trees for Climate scheme. Examples of these costs include watering and replacement, if required, as PTP is responsible for upkeep over a period of three years from first planting.

**Reserves Policy**

Plymouth Tree People aims to retain sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating for a minimum period of 12 months.

Signed: P Tarrant,  
PTP Trustee and Chair



Date: - 28/5/25

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLYMOUTH TREE PEOPLE**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Plymouth Tree People for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: PG Marker FCA



160 Austin Crescent, Egguckland, Plymouth, PL6 5QS

28th May 2025.

## **Plymouth Tree People**

Please note, there is no separate report by the independent examiner.

His statement is included within the Annual Accounts submission.

RN Atkin

Trustee and Treasurer.

**Plymouth Tree People**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161565

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# Accounts

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# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2023 -24



Our new name, Plymouth Tree People, was agreed at the 2023 AGM and, whilst there is much new to report this year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024), our core mission to help others plant, care for and learn about trees remains unchanged.

### Tree planting

#### Neighbour-Wood tree projects

With a healthy financial situation at the end of PTP's year 2022-23, coming from several generous donations, Trustees decided to press ahead with replacing missing street trees on Beacon Park Road where residents had already asked for assistance. James Brown, a chartered landscape architect with relevant experience, was contracted to lead the project which required detailed planning and close co-ordination with residents.

Soon afterwards, Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF) launched their 'Neighbour-Wood' programme, which is designed to assist communities with accessing government funding for tree planting schemes. With this added incentive, we extended the scheme on Beacon Park Road to 16 trees and took on another complex project in Wilton Street, which also followed a resident's request.

During consultation we found that most support came from Wilton Street's western portion and opinions were mixed elsewhere. We took this into account and limited the project to 8 replacement trees although only 5 could be planted in practice when an unmapped electricity cable was uncovered. Fortuitously, we had heard about plans to pollard Wilton Street's existing trees around the same time and were able to co-ordinate site works to keep traffic disruption to a minimum.

We used Glendale Countryside to re-establish the tree pits and plant the new trees in both places, and their experienced team completed the work over two weeks in February and March 2024.



*Glendale Countryside on Beacon Park Road, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024*



*New tree on Wilton Street planted 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2023 -24



PTP has the responsibility for establishing the new trees and we are encouraging residents to help with watering in summer in addition to regular visits by contractors and Tree Wardens. Labelled watering bags will be fitted to make the task easier and to raise awareness.

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest also invited PTP to assist with the design and consultation stages for three further projects, these being at the junction of Outland Road and Weston Park Road, Kingston Drive and Bideford Walk. Alison White was contracted to lead on each whilst volunteers assisted by delivering leaflets to houses. Plymouth City Council's grounds team did the planting and they are also providing the aftercare.

All the PSDCF Neighbour-Wood projects continue to be closely monitored with costs and experience being gathered to inform future projects.

### Tree replacements

Neighbour-Wood funding does not cover every situation, including trees on their own or in pairs. Other resources are needed and PTP can sometimes assist. As an example, we were able to replace the historic sycamore by Plymouth Guildhall after it had blown down in Storm Noa in April 2023. In view of its prominent position and history as a Blitz survivor, the project included a ceremonial planting by the Lord Mayor on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, exactly 83 years after the Guildhall was set alight in the Second World War. The new tree is a sycamore like its predecessor.



*The Lord Mayor, Cllr Mark Shayer, planting the new tree by the Guildhall with PTP's Chair, Penny Tarrant.*

In one of the Central Park tree avenues, a young horse chestnut had died following malicious damage, and this was replaced by Tree Wardens during one of their regular group sessions. Tree Wardens also tended the trees planted in 2020 in Herbert Street playground and took the opportunity to replace the young oak there which had died. It was the second one on that spot and had failed because of the difficult ground conditions and lack of water. A lot of hope is resting on the third tree.

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2023 -24



## Tree Care

### Tree Wardens

The pre-season Tree Warden meeting took place in the Hyde Park Social Club on one of the hottest evenings of the year but, even with just a few attending, it helped to plan activities over the autumn and winter.

There were 43 Tree Wardens on the roll at the end of 2023-24 and they have contributed in a variety of ways including tree monitoring, practical work, talks, educational activities and supporting young people with their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. More than 1,200 volunteer hours have been recorded.

Hands-on tree care is being delivered by nominated Tree Wardens in 25 places whilst the mobile group has lent a hand with work sessions in a further 12 places. Ways to increase volunteering capacity are constantly being sought and, with a funding grant from Natural England, PTP was able to purchase a road trailer for transporting materials to and from work sites, as well as new tools and high-visibility surcoats for Tree Wardens.



*Tree Wardens tending trees on Segrave Road, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

### Family Tree Field

The young trees in this 4-acre field in Central Park, all planted since 2004, continue to provide practical opportunities to try different tree-care techniques and see what works best. Grass competition and quickly drying ground are the main challenges, and generous mulching with woodchip has proved to be enormously beneficial when getting young trees established.

# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2023 -24



### **Tree conservation**

#### Armada Way

The night-time felling on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 left only 19 trees standing after STRAW – ‘Save the Trees of Armada Way’ – had obtained a necessarily urgent injunction. With felled trees and cut branches having to be left over the bird-nesting season, PTP Trustees issued a further statement in June. It reiterated our previous criticism of a design characterised by hard surfaces and fastigate trees that would make a less-welcoming and less-resilient environment.

Plymouth City Council released a revised design for consultation in October which incorporated all but six (subsequently four) of the remaining trees and, again, we were forced to deprecate the wide extent of unshaded paved surfaces. Although the design contained a greater number of trees, they were not generally with large canopies, so the overall aesthetic remained similar. We continue to encourage the use of trees that will capitalise on their well-known benefits, not only in Armada Way but in all urban spaces.

#### Development objections

Groups on the Hoe and at Crownhill contacted Plymouth Tree People for advice on preserving locally important trees in the face of injurious development proposals. In the conservation area of Lambhay Hill, street trees along the perimeter fence of a Ministry of Defence compound were to be removed to allow a new fence to be erected. On the green at Wilmot Gardens, a row of mature ash and oak trees lining the western boundary were to be removed for a housing development. We advised both local groups from PTP’s collective experience of similar situations and continue to follow progress with the planning applications.

#### Tree recording

Plymouth City Council’s asset management system, *Alloy*, includes trees and there would be mutual benefit if Tree Wardens could be involved with the ongoing task of keeping records up to date. The first training session has been arranged with a view to volunteers re-surveying the Hoe’s trees during 2024.

### **Educational talks and walks**

#### Introduction to Trees course

Thirty people followed this course of monthly lectures which was aimed at providing a basic understanding across a range of topics such as tree biology, identification, cultivation, and threats to tree health. The content has been designed to give new Tree Wardens the necessary knowledge and confidence to be effective in the role while wanting to learn more. We have been extremely fortunate that Dom Scanlon, an experienced tree consultant and engaging presenter, has once again been available to lead the course.

#### Evening talks

Café Momus was the relaxed setting for two very well-attended evening talks. Harry Barton, former Chief Executive of Devon Wildlife Trust, spoke about the “Crucial Role of Trees in a

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2023 -24



Wilder Devon of the Future” on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Matt Underwood, a professional arboriculturist and PTP Trustee, spoke about “Plymouth’s Street Trees as Extreme Survivors” on 25<sup>th</sup> March.



*Talk at Café Momus on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.*

## **Promotional activities**

### Urban Tree Festival

The Urban Tree Festival has been a national event since 2018 and Plymouth participated for the first time in 2023, thanks to intensive planning by PTP’s Chair and event organisers. A total of 27 events were staged over nine days from 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May, and they included talks and walks, ‘forest-bathing’ pursuits, workshops, and children’s activities. All were well subscribed, a few were booked out, and more than 500 people participated in total.

The festival coincided with the twentieth anniversary of Plymouth’s Tree Warden network and to celebrate, we held a reception for members when our Chair presented Tree Wardens with more than 10 years’ service with a signed print by tree-artist and PTP member, Kevin Tole.



*Reception to celebrate 20 years of Tree Wardening in Plymouth, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023*

# Plymouth Tree People Annual Report 2023 -24



Planning for a further festival in May 2024 is underway, and we are delighted that the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest has agreed to sponsor it.

## Electronic communications

The old Plymouth Tree Partnership website was starting to look dated and, with the name change to “People”, we took the opportunity to give it a makeover and freshen the logo. The new website was launched in November and it will include a video made by Fotonow that shows how Tree Wardens are making a difference in Plymouth.

There have been regular posts on Plymouth Tree People’s Meta (Facebook) and on X (Twitter) pages, covering a broad range of tree topics. Photos of trees with special features have proved to be especially popular.

A monthly round-up of tree news has continued to be emailed to members and the previous issue about some going into ‘junk’ folders has been resolved.

## LUSH charity pot weekend

The cosmetics firm, LUSH, hosts local charities in their stores from time to time and Plymouth Tree People were invited to tell customers about our work during the first weekend in March. Our presence was very well received, and with a new banner, leaflets and slideshow display to help, the event raised a total of £165.18.



*All set in the LUSH shop, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024*

## ‘For the Love of Trees’ book

Published by PTP in November 2022, this book remains on sale in bookshops, and orders have been received from other parts of the UK. Total receipts amount to £1,918 so there is some way to go before the publication costs of £2,438 are recovered. More generally, however, the venture has provided a useful way to celebrate the special qualities that trees bring and to engage others.

# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2023 -24



### Organisation and administration

#### Co-ordinator contract

With a growing list of places where resident or community groups have been asking for assistance, more organisational capacity was clearly needed and Trustees decided to engage Alison White in a co-ordinator role. She was selected because of her evident passion for trees and excellent communication skills. The contract has been for two days a week starting from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

#### Organisational policies

All the organisation's policies were reviewed and updated as necessary, resulting in a revised Health & Safety policy and a new Biosecurity policy.

#### Changed bank account

We have looked for a bank with ethics that resonate with PTP's environmental values and after much deliberation moved PTP's current account to the Co-op Bank.

#### Plan for Trees steering group

The Plan for Trees steering group, attended by Plymouth Tree People's chair and secretary, has continued to shape collaboration around tree management, conservation and canopy restoration practices.

#### Trustees

John Stone and Joe Berryman left as Trustees, and Matt Underwood joined during the year. We are very grateful to John for his considerable contribution over many years, with his ability to apply logic to any issue and his superior practical skills always shining through. Joe brought much experience during his brief tenure and only left because of other demands on his time.

Matt Underwood is a senior arboriculturist in an ecological consultancy and he brings with him experience across a wide range of tree issues. Other Trustees at the end of the financial year were:

Roger Atkin	Treasurer
Dave Curno	
Chris Hunt	
Penny Tarrant	Chair
Andrew Young	Secretary

### Funding

PTP's funding has come from a variety of sources. First and foremost, we are extremely grateful to several individuals who have made donations over the year, either as a one-off payment or as a regular amount. It is a very encouraging level of support which has confirmed the decision not to re-introduce membership fees after they were suspended during the Covid pandemic.

# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2023 -24



Natural England awarded £8,490 for a project to increase the range of activities undertaken with a view to reaching more people and the outputs have included:

- Tools, training and materials for Tree Wardens
- A road trailer to support volunteering activities
- Promotional materials including a website refresh and short film
- Guided walks for members of the public
- Participation in the 2023 Urban Tree Festival.



*Guided walk in Freedom Park – an event in Plymouth's Urban Tree Festival 2023.*

A pleasant surprise came in August when Plymouth Tree People won £5,000 in a special charity draw organised by the Benefact Group's 'Movement for Good' initiative. The prize has been instrumental in building Plymouth Tree People's capacity as a volunteering organisation and providing the confidence to take on more tree projects.

STRAW's campaign to save the trees on Armada Way included a book of poetry, photography and art by the public and members of STRAW. We are most grateful that they decided to donate the book's end-of-year sales profit (£658) to Plymouth Tree People.

As already appreciated, the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest has funded some projects managed by PTP through its 'Neighbour-Wood' scheme and it is sponsoring Plymouth's Urban Tree Festival in 2024. Street tree replacements are necessarily expensive and this is reflected in PSDCF's funding award of £47,304.

All of the above has meant that PTP's expenditure has increased substantially from £5,978 in 2022-23 to £36,022 in 2023-24. An increase in year-end cash funds from £27,015 at March 2023 to £57,937 at March 2024 is also to be welcomed, and it should enable future activities to be planned on a much firmer basis while retaining sufficient unrestricted funds for a 12-month minimum operating period.

# Plymouth Tree People

## Annual Report 2023 -24



### Acknowledgements

In addition to the funding contributions gratefully received and acknowledged above, Plymouth Tree People has depended on the professional IT services generously given pro bono by Richard Cosgrave of Beside the Box and Mark Thomas of Nettio. Richard administers the Office 365 suite provided by Microsoft with free licences for qualifying charities whilst Mark administers the website and social media accounts. These are very significant contributions in financial terms and invaluable to PTP's day-to-day running.

We are also most grateful to Paul Marker, a chartered accountant, who has carried out the independent examination of PTP's annual accounts for the sixth consecutive year, each time generously providing this professional service free of charge.

PTP members have contributed in many different ways and it would be impossible to mention them all. However, Kevin Tole has undoubtedly brought an artistic element to the appreciation of trees with his exhibitions of drawings in the Theatre Royal and the Art Mill gallery. His 'Fagus sylvatica' signed prints made a wonderful presentation item for long-serving Tree Wardens and it deserves our special thanks.

It is a privilege to use facilities in the University of Plymouth's sustainability hub for educational activities and even more so when the University chooses to waive the usual hire charges. It has been a great moral support and very much appreciated.

Finally, we admire the work that the teams in Plymouth City Council's Street Services and Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest do for trees, and hope they benefit from having us around as much as we do them.

### In numbers

#### Plymouth Tree People has:

295 Members including 43 who are Tree Wardens

#### Contributing:

1,200+ volunteer hours

#### Achieving:

500+ establishing trees tended

30 trees planted, with PTP as the lead partner

24 resident and community groups engaged

6 guided walks

11 educational talks

**PLYMOUTH TREE PEOPLE**

**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Natural England (project) grant	0.00	8,490.00	8,490.00	0.00
Movement for Good donation	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
Trees for Climate (project) grant	0.00	47,304.00	47,304.00	0.00
Mayflower 400 (project) donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Other charitable donations	3,897.60	200.00	4,097.60	840.60
For the love of trees book - receipts	593.89	0.00	593.89	1,324.73
Plymouth Armada Way book - receipts	658.81	0.00	658.81	0.00
Tree Warden training lecture grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
National Park City project - admin fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Member Donations	467.00	0.00	467.00	561.00
Gift Aid (including £1.83 interest)	113.08	0.00	113.08	0.00
Interest	120.23	99.50	219.73	60.68
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>10,850.61</b>	<b>56,093.50</b>	<b>66,944.11</b>	<b>4,087.01</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Natural England (project)	0.00	6,156.36	6,156.36	0.00
Mayflower 400 (project)	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Co-op Local Community Fund (project)	0.00	394.18	394.18	1,569.25
Trees for Climate street trees (project)	0.00	23,684.24	23,684.24	0.00
Tree Warden training lecture payment	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Use of Office Space	720.00	0.00	720.00	720.00
Insurance	182.42	0.00	182.42	157.00
Tree Council membership	175.00	0.00	175.00	175.00
For the love of trees book - payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,438.29
Administrative support	3,200.00	0.00	3,200.00	0.00
Sundries	1,510.29	0.00	1,510.29	119.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>5,787.71</b>	<b>30,234.78</b>	<b>36,022.49</b>	<b>5,978.54</b>
Net receipts (payments)	5,062.90	25,858.72	30,921.62	-1,891.53
Transfer between funds	5,007.47	-5,007.47	0.00	0.00
Cash funds last year end	3,568.46	23,446.62	27,015.08	28,906.61
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>13,638.83</b>	<b>44,297.87</b>	<b>57,936.70</b>	<b>27,015.08</b>
PTP Current Account	2,496.70	0.00	2,496.70	121.54
PTP Savings Account	11,202.13	44,297.87	55,500.00	26,953.54
less Rental accrual	-60.00	0.00	-60.00	-60.00
	<b>13,638.83</b>	<b>44,297.87</b>	<b>57,936.70</b>	<b>27,015.08</b>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLYMOUTH TREE PEOPLE**

I have examined the above Accounts, without carrying out an audit, to the supporting documents and schedules provided by the Trustees, whose responsibility it is to produce these Accounts. From an examination of all the information provided to me, the receipts and payments for the year to 31 March 2024, and the bank balance as at that date are in agreement with the supporting evidence.

*PG Markes F.C.A.*

*28<sup>th</sup> April 2024.*

**PLYMOUTH TREE PEOPLE**

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**Plymouth Tree People**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161565

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# Accounts

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Plymouth Tree Partnership’s contribution to the city’s ‘Plan for Trees’ has continued with its activities coming under the main headings of “Plant”, “Care” and “Learn”.

**We plant – by supporting groups and individuals with their tree projects**

The steady trickle of people contacting Plymouth Tree Partnership about trees where they live has continued and requests to fill an empty tree pit or replace a stump are quite common. Such requests always involve our Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest colleagues since they have the necessary resources for action although Tree Wardens have also played an active part, notably at Pathfields and Blockhouse Park. Each involved site meetings beforehand and participation on the planting days.

Platinum Jubilee school projects

During the year of the Queen’s platinum jubilee and death, Boringdon Primary School asked to plant a commemorative tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, this being one of the late Queen’s favourite trees. Plympton Tree Warden, David Frost, answered the call and showed Key Stage 2 pupils how to do it whilst explaining how trees grow and their need for aftercare.



*Tree Warden, David Frost, and children with the tree they planted at Boringdon Primary School*

Chaddlewood Primary School heard about the planting at Boringdon School and wanted to do the same. Again, David Frost, was pleased to assist.

# Plymouth Tree Partnership Annual Report 2022 – 23



## Pilgrim apple tree – final ceremonial planting

The Mayflower 400 commemorations included ceremonial plantings of the Pilgrim 400 apple tree in Pilgrim Primary Academy (1st November 2019) and the Council House Garden (11<sup>th</sup> March 2020). Plymouth Argyle had also wanted a tree but could not plant it until their refurbishment works had completed. The opportunity came on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 when Tree Warden, Gloria Dixon, masterminded arrangements. An appreciative group watched as the Lord Mayor, Cllr Sue Dann, applied her well-practised tree planting skills aided by the family of the late Gordon Sparks who was such a champion of the 'Pilgrims' at Home Park. We were joined by the club's Chairman and enjoyed their hospitality afterwards.



*Sue Dann on the left with Gordon Sparks's family*

## Mutley Plain



*Impression of Mutley Plain with newly-planted trees.*

The project to plant a length of pavement on Mutley Plain which started in June 2021 came to a natural pause during the year having proved its technical feasibility. However, it would be unaffordable as a standalone project so co-ordination with other street works will be necessary if this major street and shopping centre is once again to benefit from tree-lined pavements.

The funds earmarked for Mutley Plain have been reallocated to undertake other street tree projects in collaboration with the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest.

# Plymouth Tree Partnership Annual Report 2022 – 23



## **We care – by tending young trees and reporting problems on established trees**

Plymouth’s Tree Wardens have continued to be a key force in caring for trees planted before the Urban Tree Challenge Fund and Community Forest programmes in March 2020. Plantings since then have funding for aftercare included and this is delivered by PCC’s Street Services, although Tree Wardens stand ready to assist.

There were 34 Tree Wardens at the beginning of the year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2022) and 39 at the end of the year (31<sup>st</sup> March). Their areas of work are shown in Annex A.

The tree-care season launched with a meeting of Tree Wardens at the Golf Hut in Central Park on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Areas needing attention were identified and plans discussed for dealing with them.



*Tree Wardens meet at the Golf Hut in Central Park, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022*

The meeting helped to prioritise the mobile team’s work and they have supported these places over the year.

- |            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 29th April | Family Tree Field, Central Park |
| 20th May   | Haddington Road, Stoke          |
| 10th June  | Honicknowle orchard             |

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2022 – 23



1st July	Glen Road and Canefields Avenue, Plympton
23rd September	Paradise Road Field
14th October	Family Tree Field, Central Park
4th November	Central Park avenue trees
25th November	Trefusis Park orchard
16th December	Patna Park
13th January	Aylesbury Crescent and Playground, Whiteleigh
3rd February	Blockhouse Park, Stoke
24th February	Furzeacre Wood, Plympton
17th March	Victoria Park

### Furzeacre Wood – plastic shelters removal

Furzeacre Wood is a 4-acre site on the outskirts of Plymouth which had been planted with whips in 2012 as a planning condition for the new road leading to the tungsten mine. The tree shelters were breaking up and damaging trees. Tree Wardens combined forces with Tungsten West staff to remove all the 1,200 shelters. The work completed in one day thanks to the many people who helped and excellent logistical support from Tungsten West.



*A few of the Tree Wardens with some of the tree shelters they collected*

### Examples of individual Tree Wardening

Individual Tree Wardens have been active too and altogether, 1,100 hours have been recorded on practical tasks and at least another 300 hours (probably many more) on other activities, such as researches, meetings and planning.

Most individual activities go unnoticed and may appear trivial like watering or loosening an over-tight tree tie. However, they can make the difference between a tree growing well or failing prematurely, and hundreds of trees around Plymouth have benefitted from such attention. Each case is different, but all require an informed assessment of the problem and the initiative to deal with it. There is not the space to highlight them all so here is just a very small selection.



*Tree damaged by dog attack*

In September, when one of the young avenue horse chestnuts in Central Park was almost ring-barked in a dog attack, Alice Thompson helped the tree to recover by making a bridge graft over the damaged area.

Its canopy flushed thinner than its neighbours this spring but it now has the means to pull through. The alternative of replacing the damaged tree would have been costly in money and staff time.



*With bridge graft to aid recovery*

In January, the two mulberry trees in Moor View Park were hard against their wrought-iron guards which were pressing on the bark. Chris Hunt and Andrew Young went there with spanners to remove the guards and take them away for refurbishment and re-use elsewhere.



*Tree Warden, Chris Hunt, with one of the newly released trees in Moor View Park*

Chris Hunt and several others have also been active in the Family Tree Field, with mulching a priority because the shallow clay soil makes for very difficult growing conditions. This initiative

undoubtedly kept the trees going during the hot dry summer of 2022 and reduced the amount of watering required.



Bordering the Family Tree Field is the avenue of sweet chestnut trees planted for Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. It has experienced high rates of mortality for no apparent reason and Tree Wardens have been progressively replacing the failed heavy-standard containerised trees with smaller stock, and they appear to be establishing more successfully.

When one of the original trees showed exfoliating bark, Phytophthora plant disease was suspected and reported to DEFRA who came to test it. Fortunately, none was found and with extra mulching the tree appears to be recovering.

*Exfoliating bark on one of the Jubilee Row sweet chestnuts*

### **We learn – by coaching Tree Wardens and explaining tree topics to others**

Tree Warden training has typically depended on those with more experience demonstrating practical techniques to others and pointing out features of interest on guided walks, such as the one on the Hoe which followed the AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

#### Theory course for Tree Wardens

On job training is no substitute for understanding what makes for a successful tree. We were extremely fortunate therefore to have attracted a professional tree consultant and trainer, Dominic Scanlon, to deliver six evening talks over the winter months which explained the science of arboriculture. They each lasted two hours and were held in the Sustainability Hub thanks to the continuing support of the University of Plymouth. The talks were aimed at new Tree Wardens as well as those with some experience and were subsidised by a funding grant from the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest. The topics covered were:

- |               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 13th October  | How trees grow                    |
| 17th November | How to identify and name trees    |
| 15th December | Threats to tree health            |
| 19th January  | Planting and caring for new trees |
| 23rd February | Pruning – whys and wherefores     |
| 23rd March    | Designing with trees              |



*February's tree talk*

### Armada Way

Plymouth Tree Partnership's members include several tree specialists who were able to probe the information presented by promoters of the Armada Way scheme in September 2022. It was apparent that the case for such extensive tree removal was for convenience rather than arboricultural reasons. While a new group 'Save the Trees of Armada Way' led a high-profile campaign, PTP Trustees made two representations and, following a Council direction, they met with officers and contractors, who remained unpersuaded and the trees were subsequently felled. An independent enquiry is promised, and one obvious lesson is that constituted groups like Plymouth Tree Partnership must always be treated as stakeholders at every stage of the design process. Another lesson is to establish transparent management processes so that confidence and trust can be restored.

### Natural England project

In parallel with Urban Tree Festival planning, we submitted a funding application to Natural England for resources that will increase Plymouth Tree Partnership's capacity. As a blended project designed to increase membership, volunteering and proficiency, it will include making a short film to raise Plymouth Tree Partnership's profile, implementing a Tree Warden development programme, and buying new equipment. Natural England approved the funding in March 2023 and the project will be delivered during 2023-24.

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2022 – 23



### Urban Tree Festival planning

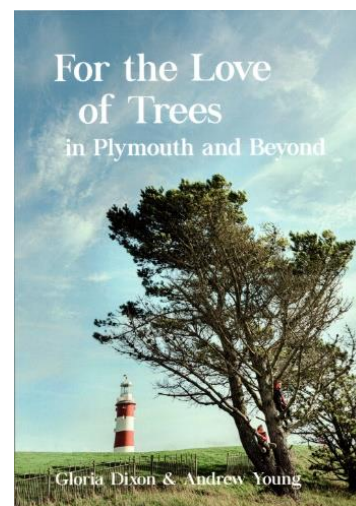


Planning started in January to take part in the Urban Tree Festival, 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023. It would be the first time that Plymouth had participated in this national fixture and the organisational work involved provided a useful stimulus for team building with imaginative ideas being turned into appealing events.

### Book – For the Love of Trees

In November 2022, Plymouth Tree Partnership members and Tree Wardens, Gloria Dixon and Andrew Young, produced a new book, “For the Love of Trees – in Plymouth and Beyond.” With contributors from all walks of life and vitality in their articles, the book should appeal to tree lovers everywhere.

The book’s editors asked if Plymouth Tree Partnership wished to act as publisher, as with “Plymouth’s Favourite Trees” in 2008, and the uninformed Trustees agreed to this. The book launch took place on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. By the close of the financial year, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, half of the publication costs of £2,400 had been met with sales continuing at a steady rate.



### **Administration**

The launch of the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest in 2021 caused a fundamental re-examination of Plymouth Tree Partnership’s purpose and its relationships with local government and national charities. It has since become clear that the funding available to them will be insufficient for many street tree projects, which will only be able to proceed if supplemented by charitable donations and other grants. This, and the need to co-ordinate voluntary activities means that Plymouth Tree Partnership’s purpose is largely unchanged although close communications with the Community Forest will be essential.

### Trustees

Sandy Borthwick left as a Trustee and Joe Berryman joined during the year. We are grateful to Sandy for bringing his business experience to the charity during the difficult period of the Covid pandemic. Joe Berryman is the tree officer for Plymouth Community Homes and very knowledgeable about tree management. Other Trustees at the end of the financial year were:

Roger Atkin	Treasurer
Dave Curno	
Chris Hunt	
John Stone	
Penny Tarrant	Chair
Andrew Young	Secretary

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2022 – 23



John Stone retires at the forthcoming AGM having served three terms. He has been a strong advocate for Tree Wardening and assures us that we will continue to see him at all the usual events.

### Membership

Trustees have decided not to re-introduce membership fees which were suspended during the Covid pandemic. Instead, self-subscription systems are being investigated and proposals will be presented at the 2023 AGM. Interest in the Armada Way developments has led to more people joining Plymouth Tree Partnership and at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, there were 127 members.

### Electronic payments

Plymouth Tree Partnership has a well-used system in place for making electronic bank transfers with two-Trustee authorisation. In March, we invested in a simple-to-use card reader that enables the charity to accept card payments. This has been particularly useful for book sales when fewer people carry cash.

### Reserves

Plymouth Tree Partnership's policy of maintaining sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating for a minimum period of twelve months has been met.

### Risks

Risk management features prominently when inducting new Tree Wardens who are instructed only to carry out tasks which they feel confident in undertaking. A competence framework has been proposed and may be implemented once it can be developed further. There were no incidents of a serious nature during the year.

### Charity management

Plymouth Tree Partnership has the following policies in place:

- Code of conduct
- Data protection and privacy statement
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding
- Social media
- Sustainability

They were reviewed and updated in March 2023. A biosecurity policy is planned in 2023-24 as threats to tree health are ever present.

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2022 – 23



### Communications

Every month, news items have been collated into an email for members and volunteers. Statistics from Mailchimp which supports the service show that ‘open’ and ‘clicked link’ rates are slightly better than for comparable organisations although the number of emails reportedly going into recipient spam folders continues to be a concern.

Plymouth Tree Partnership’s Facebook page and group have continued to be useful channels for posting news items and forthcoming events.

### Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to so many people who have given their time or money to plant and establish trees where they are most wanted. It would be impossible to acknowledge them individually so this brief paragraph must suffice.

We continue to depend on Richard Cosgrave of Beside the Box (an IT Support business) for generously contributing his firm’s professional services. The shared drive he set up in 2018 makes it possible for Trustees to access files remotely and is a valuable store of information.

The University of Plymouth has also remained a generous supporter, not only by providing free use of its Sustainability Hub for meetings but also through its business networks and virtual internships programme.

Finally, the success of Tree Wardening depends on the patient work of The Tree Council who support networks across the country, and it is so encouraging for us to know that their national co-ordinator, Sam Village, is always ready to answer our questions.



*The Shirofugen cherry in Adelaide Park – a Plymouth Tree Partnership project*

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2022 – 23



### Annex A – Tree care and surveys

Plymouth Tree Partnership’s volunteer Tree Wardens have delivered care to young trees or undertaken tree surveys in the following places during 2022-23.

Location	Tree Warden
Barrack Square Gdns & Stonehouse Wall	Sue Johns
Central Park	Martin Blacher Chris Hunt (Family Tree Field) Nicola Westlake (Alma Road) Alice Thompson (Swarthmore Orchard) Matt Underwood (Swarthmore Orchard)
Cremyll Street	Mick Nightingale
Devonport Park (Ferry Road Field)	Fairfax Luxmoore
Down Horn Park orchard	Nigel Jackson
Freedom Fields Park	Jacques Marchal
Haddington Road	Fairfax Luxmoore
Ham Woods	Dave Curno
Mount Wise towers	Tess Wilmot
Mutley Park	Gloria Dixon
Patna Park	Emily Triplett
Pemros Road	Ken Hamblin
Plympton	David Frost Heidi Lane
Pryne Close	Diane Barrall
Radford Park	Kevin Warley Jenny Floyd
Radford Woods	Andy Anderson Jenny Floyd
Staddiscombe Playing Fields	Alan and Menza Ramage
Thorn Park	Gloria Dixon
Torr Lane	Roy and Liz Harris
Tothill Park	Nick Reid
Victoria Park	Jasper Bradley
Mobile Group	20 Tree Wardens who lend a hand anywhere.

**PLYMOUTH TREE PARTNERSHIP****RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Mayflower 400 (project) donation		200.00	200.00	0.00
Other charitable donations	420.60	420.00	840.60	961.45
For the love of trees book - receipts	1,324.73		1,324.73	0.00
Tree Warden training lecture grant	600.00		600.00	0.00
National Park City project - admin fee	500.00		500.00	0.00
Member Donations	561.00		561.00	798.00
Interest	37.02	23.66	60.68	2.91
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>3,443.35</b>	<b>643.66</b>	<b>4,087.01</b>	<b>1,762.36</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Mayflower 400 (project)		200.00	200.00	0.00
Co-op Local Community Fund (project)		1,569.25	1,569.25	2,186.98
Tree Warden training lecture payment	600.00		600.00	0.00
Use of Office Space	720.00		720.00	720.00
Insurance	157.00		157.00	157.00
Tree Council membership	175.00		175.00	175.00
For the love of trees book - payments	2,438.29		2,438.29	0.00
Sundries	119.00		119.00	230.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>4,209.29</b>	<b>1,769.25</b>	<b>5,978.54</b>	<b>3,468.98</b>
Net receipts (payments)	-765.94	-1,125.59	-1,891.53	-1,706.62
Transfer between funds	2,438.29	-2,438.29	0.00	0.00
Cash funds last year end	1,896.11	27,010.50	28,906.61	28,906.61
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>3,568.46</b>	<b>23,446.62</b>	<b>27,015.08</b>	
Barclays Current Account	121.54	0.00	121.54	
Barclays Savings Account	3,506.92	23,446.62	26,953.54	
Cash this year end	0.00	0.00	0.00	
less Rental accrual	-60.00	0.00	-60.00	
	<b>3,568.46</b>	<b>23,446.62</b>	<b>27,015.08</b>	

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PLYMOUTH TREE PARTNERSHIP**

I have examined the above Accounts, without carrying out an audit, to the supporting documents and schedules provided by the Trustees, whose responsibility it is to produce these Accounts. From an examination of all the information provided to me, the receipts and payments for the year to 31 March 2023, and the bank balance as at that date are in agreement with the supporting evidence.

PG Markew FCA

2nd May 2023

**Plymouth Tree People**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161565

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# Accounts

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# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2021 – 22



With government funding, Plymouth City Council has planted more than 2,000 standard trees since March 2020 and taken on their aftercare, all of which is very welcome.

Most recently, in February 2022, the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest was launched with a 'Call to Action' weekend. Plymouth Tree Partnership ran two 'all-comer' tree care events as part of it. The Community Forest will have a strong emphasis on young people and eventually plant 1,900 hectares of land from the 'heart of the city to the edge of Dartmoor' and 'form a mosaic of different habitats'.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue with Plymouth City Council to establish a role in the Community Forest that builds on our core activities and key strengths; i.e. the Tree Warden network, community engagement, education and awareness, and fundraising for projects. Highlights from these activities are included in this report.

### Tree Wardens



Coming out of the pandemic, Tree Wardens met in the new Community Sports Hub in Central Park on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to re-establish contact and take stock. Encouragingly, most Tree Wardens had stayed active in their chosen roles during the pandemic.

At the year-end (31<sup>st</sup> March 2022), there were 34 active Tree Wardens (shown at Annex A). Six had enrolled or re-enrolled during the year with most bringing a great deal of relevant experience and all keen to make a positive contribution.

Five Tree Wardens retired or lost contact during the year. Each made a big difference where they worked and maybe 100 of the city's amenity trees exist today because of their efforts. Special thanks go to Zita Moyses for her work in Victoria and Patna Parks and to Tina Wilson for hers in Burleigh Park Road.

The mobile group re-started in October to lend support where required and they met on a three-weekly cycle. Blessed by fine weather, they helped with tending young trees in these places:

20 <sup>th</sup> October	Freedom Park
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Tothill Park
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Victoria Park
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Central Park
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Pemros Road
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Lower Street
18 <sup>th</sup> March	The Ride

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2021 – 22



Plymouth Tree Partnership had been involved with plantings at each of the above locations except for The Ride. Here, about 100 plastic tree shelters were starting to interfere with the growth of trees and shrubs that had been planted in about 2014 without any maintenance provision in place.



Individual and group efforts together have amounted to 1024 hours of volunteer time spent on practical tree care tasks and many more hours have been spent in other volunteering roles. It is a very creditable achievement when there are so many other calls on time.

### Members

Membership renewals declined significantly over the pandemic and new membership applications were also down. This is attributed to the lower levels of group activity during the period, especially the impossibility of holding the 2020 AGM and the usual programme of walks and talks.

With much uncertainty remaining in March 2022, not only from the pandemic but also because of the Community Forest, it was decided that subscriptions would not be sought for the coming year. The situation was explained to members by email and many chose to leave their annual mandate in place as a donation to support the partnership's work. Such loyal support was a tremendous boost and greatly appreciated.

These developments mean that the partnership started the 2022-23 year with 70 individual members and 8 corporate members.

### Communications

Every month, news items have been collated into an email for members and volunteers. Statistics from Mailchimp which supports the service show that 'open' and 'clicked link' rates are slightly better than for comparable organisations although the number of emails reportedly going into recipient spam folders continues to be a concern.

Plymouth Tree Partnership relaunched its Facebook page as a 'group' during the year and it has been a useful channel for posting news items and forthcoming events. The Facebook page 'Plymouth Favourite Trees' continues to attract posts from a slightly broader following and there is usually an item of recent general interest there.

Trustees have maintained contact with the Tree Warden networks in Cornwall and South Hams, especially with a view to making the Tree Warden scheme more effective at the local level. In July, the Tree Council's national co-ordinator visited Plymouth and met representatives of all the groups together at Saltram.

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2021 – 22



### Trustees

David Curry and Diane Barrall retired as trustees at the 2021 Annual General Meeting. Having been the Chair since 2017, David was instrumental in consolidating Plymouth Tree Partnership as a registered charity on which others could depend. He worked hard to make the voice of community groups heard and it was during his tenure that Plymouth City Council made amenity tree planting a corporate objective, something that had not been seen previously. Diane's experience of practical tree care has been most valuable, and we are grateful to her and to David for their efforts to promote volunteering for trees, especially the Tree Warden scheme.

Penny Tarrant took over as Chair at the 2021 AGM and, with Dave Curno, is developing a dialogue with Plymouth City Council about the role of volunteers in the Community Forest. Much is still to be agreed but the partnership's capabilities, both existing and potential, are well recognised.

In other matters, trustees continue to give their time and experience freely and the following have served during the year from 1st April 2021:

Roger Atkin	Treasurer
Sandy Borthwick	
Dave Curno	
John Stone	
Penny Tarrant	Chair
Andrew Young	Secretary

### Events

Although in-person events have been suspended with just a few exceptions, there have been several webinars and similar online meetings. Hayley Rogers, PCC's co-ordinator for tree planting gave a talk over Zoom on 14<sup>th</sup> April and Howard Gray, Green Blue Urban's urban trees advocate, gave two presentations on 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November. We have also enjoyed listening to the presentations of others, notably the Trees and Design Action Group of which Plymouth Tree Partnership is a member.



Following a brief postponement to avoid clashing with football's Euro semi-final, the Annual General Meeting was held in the Devonport Park pavilion on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Afterwards, we enjoyed walking around the fruiting arboretum planted in February 2020 with two of the project's champions, James Brown and Fairfax Luxmoore. They described the arboretum's background in a lively and informative way.

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2021 – 22



### Family Tree Scheme

The Family Tree Scheme has been running since 2004 and attracted more than 130 donations to plant the field formerly known as ‘Lane End’ in Central Park. The young trees have been tended by Plymouth Tree Partnership volunteers who frequently hear appreciative comments like ‘this is my favourite place in the whole park’. With space at a premium, recent plantings have been small trees or large shrubs and there is still scope for more in well-chosen areas. However, the Council believe it is time to bring the Family Tree Scheme to a close and the Natural Infrastructure Team has taken over the field’s management, although volunteers will continue to care for the trees already planted. Chris Hunt has been leading this work very ably and, over winter, most of the trees were mulched with woodchip laid over a sheet of corrugated cardboard.

One of the last additions to the field has been a new bench funded by the Co-op Community Fund. It is a large plank taken from the Atlas cedar that used to stand in front of the main entrance at Derriford Hospital until removed for road widening and the bus interchange in 2016.



The closure of the Family Tree Scheme makes it more important to find a suitable permanent home for the dedications book although presently it remains in Plymouth Tree Partnership’s office at Poole Farm.

### Trees and planning applications

Individuals and community groups concerned about losing trees in their neighbourhoods have approached Plymouth Tree Partnership for advice on several occasions. Each situation is different and involves a great deal of research and effort to prepare a meaningful response. We are very grateful to Kevin Warley for leading this activity in addition to his Tree Wardening role in Radford Park arboretum.

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2021 – 22



### Mutley Plain project

The loss of trees on Mutley Plain has long been lamented. Shrubs in planters were tried about twenty years ago but they could not make enough of a difference and were soon removed.

Re-introducing proper trees has always seemed a pipe dream but this changed in March 2021 when Drew and Co Ltd, a locally based engineering firm, donated £5,000 for tree planting schemes in the city as a demonstration of their commitment to reducing environmental impacts and leading the way towards sustainability.



Earmarking Drew and Co's donation for Mutley Plain provided a catalyst for engaging other stakeholders, not least The Tree Council which followed by allocating £20,000 from its Community Tree Planting Programme funded by Network Rail. With local pledges, it meant that about half the estimated cost of five new trees was already secured. The high cost is due to the need to work around underground services and to install soil cells that can bear the weight of the pavement while keeping the tree roots zone free of compaction.

Raising the outstanding funding required will depend on a Crowdfunder campaign. We applied to Plymouth University's Virtual Internship scheme in January for a student who could develop the materials and manage the social media aspects. The bid was successful and the Crowdfunder campaign looks set to launch imminently.

### Acknowledgements

We continue to be grateful to Richard Cosgrave of Beside the Box (an IT Support business) for generously lending his firm's professional services. The shared drive he set up in 2018 makes it possible for trustees to access files remotely and is a valuable store of information.

Katherine Tubb has kindly lent her experience as a charity consultant to present Plymouth Tree Partnership's work to local businesses and discuss where mutually beneficial relationships could be established. It is a long-term prospect and the advent of the Community Forest will also influence developments here.

Lastly, very many thanks to everyone who has supported our work to help others plant and care for trees. People have volunteered or contributed in many different ways and each one has been extremely valuable. It would be impossible to acknowledge them all as they deserve so this brief paragraph must suffice. Thank you most sincerely.

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2021 – 22



### Charity management

Policies have been kept under review and the reserves policy to retain sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating for a minimum period of twelve months was achieved. There were no incidents of a serious nature during the year.

### Annex A – Tree care and surveys

Plymouth Tree Partnership's volunteer Tree Wardens have been delivering care to young trees or undertaking tree surveys in the following places during 2021-22.

Location	Tree Warden
Adelaide Park	Barbara Hampson
Astor Park	Emily Triplett
Central Park	Martin Blacher Chris Hunt (Family Tree Field) Nicola Westlake (Alma Road) Alice Thompson (Swarthmore Orchard) Matt Underwood (Swarthmore Orchard)
Cremyll Street	Mick Nightingale
Devonport Park	Fairfax Luxmoore
Down Horn Park orchard	Nigel Jackson
Freedom Park	Jacques Marchal
Haddington Road	Fairfax Luxmoore
Ham Woods	Dave Curno
Pemros Road	Ken Hamblin
Plympton	David Frost
Prynne Close	Diane Barrall
Radford Park	Kevin Warley Jenny Floyd
Radford Woods	Andy Anderson Hilary Fursdon
Staddiscombe Playing Fields	Alan and Menza Ramage
Thorn Park	Gloria Dixon
Torr Lane	Roy and Liz Harris
Tothill Park	Nick Reid
Mobile Group	20 Tree Wardens who lend a hand anywhere.

**PLYMOUTH TREE PARTNERSHIP  
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Co-op Local Community Fund (project)	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,550.70
Drew and Co donation (project)	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Mayflower 400 donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	238.00
Other charitable donations	466.45	495.00	961.45	128.52
Interest	1.08	1.83	2.91	9.95
Membership	798.00	0.00	798.00	691.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,265.53</b>	<b>496.83</b>	<b>1,762.36</b>	<b>14,618.17</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Mayflower 400 (project)	0.00	0.00	0.00	615.33
Trees (various)	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.99
Co-op Local Community Fund (project)	0.00	2,186.98	2,186.98	704.18
Use of Office Space	720.00	0.00	720.00	720.00
Insurance	157.00	0.00	157.00	0.00
Tree Council membership	175.00	0.00	175.00	0.00
Sundries	230.00	0.00	230.00	234.70
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>1,282.00</b>	<b>2,186.98</b>	<b>3,468.98</b>	<b>2,355.20</b>
Net receipts (payments)	-16.47	-1,690.15	-1,706.62	12,262.97
Cash funds last year end	1,912.58	28,700.65	30,613.23	30,613.23
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>1,896.11</b>	<b>27,010.50</b>	<b>28,906.61</b>	
Barclays Current Account	321.73	0.00	321.73	
Barclays Savings Account	1,627.36	27,010.50	28,637.86	
Cash fund this year end	7.02	0.00	7.02	
less Rental accrual	-60.00	0.00	-60.00	
	1,896.11	27,010.50	<b>28,906.61</b>	

The **main elements** of the Restricted Funds are:

	£
Central Park Elms	8,581.75
Co-op Local Community Fund	5,539.54
Drew and Co donation	5,000.00
	<b>19,121.29</b>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PLYMOUTH TREE PARTNERSHIP**

I have examined the above Accounts, without carrying out an audit, to the supporting documents and schedules provided by the Trustees, whose responsibility it is to produce these Accounts. From an examination of all the information provided to me, the receipts and payments for the year to 31 March 2022, and the bank balance as at that date are in agreement with the supporting evidence.

PG Marker FCA  
22nd May 2022

**Plymouth Tree People**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161565

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# Accounts

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# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2020 – 21



Plymouth Tree Partnership's reporting year started nine days after the first national lockdown began and Coronavirus restrictions have remained in force to some extent all year. In consequence, most of the partnership's usual activities have had to be cancelled or curtailed, and this report is necessarily thin.

### Activities

#### Tree Wardening

Organised volunteering activities have not been possible and the bigger jobs where two or three people are required to work side-by-side have mainly been left undone. More typically, individual Tree Wardens have used their initiative to see what needs doing and have applied themselves accordingly.

Watering young trees remains the biggest challenge and we have heard how it has been met in different places. The 'Please Water Me' signs next to Plymouth Community Homes trees have seen people out with small containers, whilst some Tree Wardens have brought in wheel-barrows and trailers to transport the heavier loads.



*Dave Curno with his trailer at the Family Tree Field*

#### Meetings and tree talks

No physical meetings could be held during the year and, in line with advice from the Charity Commission, the 2020 Annual General Meeting did not take place.

With growing familiarity with web-based applications, Plymouth Tree Partnership held its first online tree talk on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 when member, David Frost, gave a lively and informative presentation about Ancient Trees in the local area.

#### Communications

Every month, a newsletter has been compiled and emailed to members and volunteers. Quite recently, however, it became apparent that many of the group mailings were going into spam folders and not being opened. The problem is ongoing and potential solutions are being investigated.

Plymouth Tree Partnership's Facebook group has 141 followers. There have been no posts during the year and, if rejuvenated, it should prove to be a useful communication channel.

#### Office

The Coronavirus situation meant that access to the office facilities at Poole Farm was controlled and Plymouth Tree Partnership volunteers were unhappy about using it despite precautions.

In consequence, a rent holiday was quickly agreed in principle with Poole Farm managers. However, difficulty was encountered within corporate Plymouth City Council departments, wishing to charge an administration fee for suspending and resuming the lease. The amount turned out to be little different from the cost of continuing to pay the lease for the six months in question and so the matter was not taken further.

Trustees have agreed to keep the need for an office base under review. Technology solutions make remote working a distinct possibility and up to nine Trustees can have free Microsoft Office accounts because of the Partnership's charitable status. We are extremely grateful to IT specialist Richard Cosgrave, who administers the Partnership's systems, for making this possible and the Microsoft application with its shared drive for documents and pictures is working well.

## Trustees

With no AGM in 2020, Andrew Young and Dave Curno were appointed as Trustees in December and February respectively.

Chris Hunt stepped down in January after five years as a Trustee. He brought a wealth of experience from his professional background as an arboriculturist which was particularly useful when developing the partnership's policies. We are grateful for his work and delighted he is going to continue as a Tree Warden with the Family Tree Field remaining his main focus.

Other Trustees this year have been:

Roger Atkin	Treasurer
Diane Barrall	
Sandy Borthwick	
David Curry	Chair
John Stone	
Penny Tarrant	

Trustee meetings have taken place every two months using internet technology, with other communications by email.

## Membership

Membership numbers have fallen sharply from 68 last year to 45 currently. It is attributed to not having opportunities to collect cash for subscription renewals, failures in communicating with existing members and not being able to meet new people. It is a concern for Trustees and being actively addressed.

## **Achievements**

### Family Tree Field

Having completed two key enhancements to the Family Tree Field in 2019 – the central seating area and remade entrances on Gilbert Lane – we had expected to rest a little before starting something else. That changed in January 2020 when the Co-op, one of the funders in 2019, called to ask if we wanted to join their Community Fund scheme because another charity had dropped out.

In November, we heard the exciting news that a total of £8,550 had been raised because of Co-op members at four local stores making Plymouth

Tree Partnership their chosen cause. The money is being used to introduce a new tree labelling system, replace the damaged interpretation panel, install a new bench and make hedgebank repairs. Surplus funds are being used to buy more tools and to support future plantings.



*New tree label bought with the Co-op Community Fund grant*

### American Tree Trail

The Plymouth Trails app went live on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and the Council Officer leading the project said this about the American Tree Trail:

“It has been wonderful to work with Plymouth Tree Partnership to develop their new American Tree Trail for the new Plymouth Trails app. They were our first partner trail and worked closely with me to explore the best way to adapt the trail to work well in the app. It has been a long process, but I think that the American Tree Trail is a great addition. It's perfect for locals and visitors to the city to discover our American trees and connections, especially during this year and the Mayflower 400 commemorations.”

Thanks are due to Heather Barriball for all her tremendous work with the trail and seeing it through to a successful conclusion.

### Pilgrim 400

The original offer to schools and community groups to buy a Pilgrim 400 apple tree for the Mayflower 400 celebrations opened 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019. However, only six applications were received by the original 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 deadline, so this was extended to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. At one

stage, it appeared possible that the Daily Mail might have bought all forty special-edition trees for its school orchards campaign, but the logistics challenges proved too great.

With no further applications having been received by the new deadline, it was decided to make the trees available to schools and community groups free of charge, provided they were able to collect from Endsleigh Gardens Nursery at Milton Abbot. This resulted in a flood of applications and all forty trees were quickly allocated.



*Widey Court Primary School pupils plant their Pilgrim 400 tree*

Project costs were borne by the Mayflower Community Sparks fund, so the only financial impact for Plymouth Tree Partnership was some loss of sales revenue. The original six applicants declined offers to reimburse the money they had paid so, overall, the project made a profit of £270, which will be used to support more tree planting.

### Plymouth Tree Challenge

During 2019, Plymouth Tree Partnership collated proposals for planting trees in fifty different locations, in support of an application by Plymouth City Council to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF) with its strict eligibility criteria.

Several months later, in February 2020, we heard that the bid had been approved subject to confirmation of Plymouth City Council's match funding, which was finally announced in July 2020. It was only then that Plymouth City Council's Natural Infrastructure Team could start to mobilise for the planting season.

Although not actively involved with the planting programme, we followed developments closely and were delighted with the totals achieved. 778 standards were planted with UTCF funding and 173 standards with other funding, making a total of 951 trees planted over a four-month period; a very creditable achievement.

The funding grants included provision for aftercare and watering has already begun. Furthermore, discussions have started about the best means for delivering long-term aftercare, with the Tree Warden network being seen as a key asset.

### Donations

Several donations have been received over the year and we are extremely grateful for each one. A special mention goes to Drew and Co Ltd, a regional Mechanical and Electrical engineering company based in Plympton, for donating £5,000 for tree planting schemes in the city. The firm is committed to reducing its environmental impact and taking a lead towards sustainability. The donation is a huge boost for schemes that require expensive site preparations, and we are looking for places where it will make a real difference.

### Homes found

When a site was being cleared for development in February, the contractors needed to dig up four young trees but had nowhere for them to go. They contacted Plymouth Tree Partnership and, through our networks, we found them good homes. A silver birch went into Hartley Park and 3 fastigiata beeches went to Wyoming Close.



*Transplanted tree in Wyoming Close*

# Plymouth Tree Partnership

## Annual Report 2020 – 21



### Message from the Chair

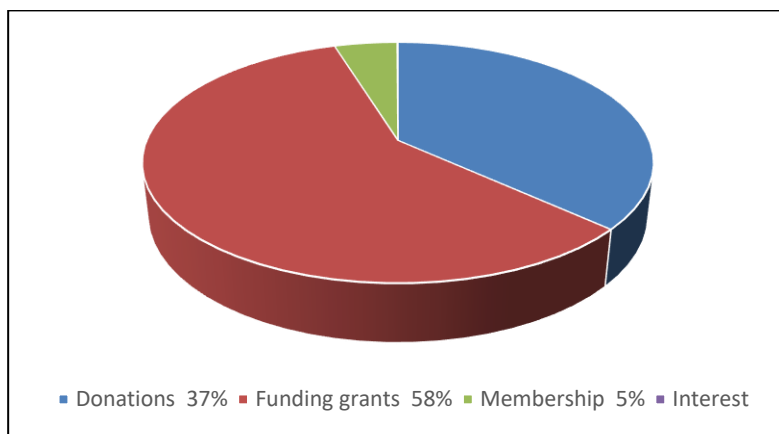
Everyone understands how difficult the last year has been. As a charity, Plymouth Tree Partnership is about helping others plant and care for trees and, despite everything, we have stayed true to that aim. This report cannot cover everything, and it is the willingness of individual members and volunteers to stay involved which has been vital. Because of that, the partnership is in a good place for moving forward and the coming year shows much promise. We sincerely hope that all the usual activities can start again soon.

### Financial summary

We are most grateful to Chartered Accountant, Paul Marker, for carrying out an independent review of the charity's accounts and a summary is provided here.

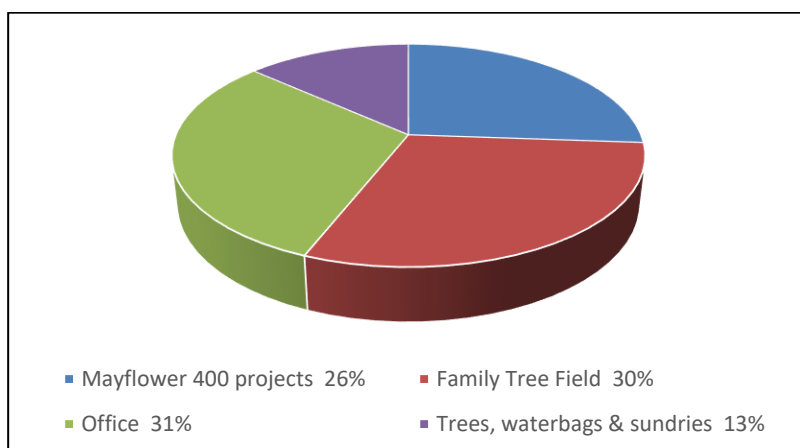
#### Income

Plymouth Tree Partnership's income for the year 2020-21 was £14,618.17.



#### Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2020-21 was £2,355.20.



### Charity management

Policies have been kept under review and the reserves policy to retain sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating for a minimum period of twelve months was achieved. There were no incidents of a serious nature during the year.

**PLYMOUTH TREE PARTNERSHIP**

**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Book Sales				19.50
Haddington Road (project)				300.00
Woodland Trust (project)				3,700.00
Central Park Golf (project)				200.19
Segrave Road (project)				1,053.50
Co-op Local Community Fund (project)		8,550.70	8,550.70	24.64
Drew and Co donation (project)		5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Mayflower 400 donations	238.00		238.00	0.00
Uplands Charitable Trust donation				500.00
Other charitable donations	98.52	30.00	128.52	251.90
Interest		9.95	9.95	25.00
Membership	691.00		691.00	967.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,027.52</b>	<b>13,590.65</b>	<b>14,618.17</b>	<b>7,041.73</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Haddington Road & James Street (projects)				239.39
Mayflower 400 (project)		615.33	615.33	600.00
Central Park Golf (project)				200.19
Talking Trees Co-ordinator (project)				3,700.00
Family Tree Field (projects)				10,090.00
Family Tree Field benches (projects)				3,510.00
Trees (various)	80.99		80.99	166.67
Co-op Local Community Fund (project)		704.18	704.18	0.00
Devonport Park waterbags	160.80		160.80	0.00
Use of Office Space	720.00		720.00	720.00
Insurance				257.60
Subscription - Tree Council				250.00
Tree photographs				75.00
Website domain				85.00
Sundries	73.90		73.90	116.28
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>1,035.69</b>	<b>1,319.51</b>	<b>2,355.20</b>	<b>20,010.13</b>
Net receipts (payments)	-8.17	12,271.14	12,262.97	-12,968.40
Cash funds last year end	1,920.75	16,429.51	18,350.26	18,350.26
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>1,912.58</b>	<b>28,700.65</b>	<b>30,613.23</b>	
Barclays Current Account	231.26	5,000.00	5,231.26	
Barclays Savings Account	1,734.30	23,700.65	25,434.95	
Cash fund this year end	7.02	0.00	7.02	
less Rental accrual	-60.00	0.00	-60.00	
	<b>1,912.58</b>	<b>28,700.65</b>	<b>30,613.23</b>	

The **main elements** of the Restricted Fund balance are:

	£
Central Park Elms	8,580.37
Co-op Local Community Fund	7,871.16
Drew and Co donation	5,000.00
	<b>21,451.53</b>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PLYMOUTH TREE PARTNERSHIP**

I have examined the above Accounts, without carrying out an audit, to the supporting documents and schedules provided by the Trustees, whose responsibility it is to produce these Accounts. From an examination of all the information provided to me, the receipts and payments for the year to 31 March 2021 and the bank balances as at that date are in agreement with that supporting information.

Signed *P & Marker FCA*  
Independent Examiner

Date *25/04/2021*