



[www.highburyparkfriends.org.uk](http://www.highburyparkfriends.org.uk)

## Newsletter February 2008

### Tree Planting Day – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Last July, Bob Blackaby put in a *Trees for Life* bid for 15 trees. This has been approved and expanded to 18 trees this year. We have made arrangements with Sue Amey of the Parks Department to have the first 15 trees planted by the maintenance crew as part of their February schedule, and the last three as part of a Tree Planting Day.

We are planning a mark-the-trees-on-a-map game, a match the tree/leaf/seed puzzle, light refreshments, and a give-away Tree Diary to keep a record of a tree's progress (and hopefully bring to follow-on events). Come and celebrate the planting of young trees that will be a feature of the park for many many years to come.

The new trees are:

Field Maple x5, Beech x2, Ash x1,  
Black/Lombardy Poplar x1, Oak x3,  
Whitebeam x5 and Small Leaf Lime x1.  
They will be sited mainly between the car park and the long pond with some lining the access road and some filling gaps in the hedge along Shutlock Lane.

### Spring in the Park ...

Frosty dawns, spectacular sunsets, spring flowers and wildlife. If you would like to share your photos or drawings of Highbury Park, send them to:- HPF Newsletter Editor, 54 Grange Road, B14 7RJ, or e-mail them to [contact@highburyparkfriends.org.uk](mailto:contact@highburyparkfriends.org.uk) enclosing your name and contact details.

Photo by EP – Highbury Park – February 08



Can you name the tree? (answer – overleaf)

### Woody who?

*“When I had the dog, I used to come to the park twice a day, sometimes three times. Once when walking on the other side of the pond at the top of the park, the one that's now silted up, I saw movement in a hole in the old oak tree. A little woodpecker peeped out, then another. The young were fledging and the parents were calling them out – it was fascinating! The following year, hoping that the woodpecker might have returned, I was surprised but delighted to see that most of the woodpecker hole had been ‘cemented’ up and was being used by nuthatch!”*  
Stuart, Kings Heath.

Stuart probably saw a greater spotted woodpecker. Now is a good time to listen

out for the distinctive drumming sound the woodpeckers make as they hammer the tree bark. They are also much easier to see before the leaves appear on the trees. The much smaller and rarer Lesser Spotted Woodpecker has been seen in Highbury Park but is elusive usually feeding high up in the trees and only the size of a sparrow. While we're on the subject, Green Woodpeckers are also common in the park. As well as foraging in trees, they also feed in the grass, being especially fond of ants.



*greater spotted woodpecker*

### Tree Survey Update

We now have a pot of money and can put all our information onto a tree survey website and create two tree trails – one to link in with the Kings Heath Floral Trail and another longer one to follow the Walk 2000 route. We also need to produce a display/exhibit that is easily transportable – does anyone have any design skills and would like to help? The only catch is that the money has to be spent by the end of March!

The next tree survey is Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March starting at 10am in the car park. Phone 444 0819 for details. EP



*Photo by SJ – Highbury Park – February 08*

*Answer: Photo overleaf is a plane tree – note the bobbles and peely bark.*

### Forthcoming events:

- Saturday 1 March:** Tree Survey, 10:00-12:00
- Saturday 8 March:** Tree Planting Ceremony, 11:00-3:00 (and possibly a guided walk around the park –see article overleaf)
- Tuesday 11 March:** Tree Survey, 10:00-12:00
- Saturday 5 April:** Tree Survey, 10:00-12:00
- Wednesday 8 April** Conifer identification workshop 6.30 pm.
- Saturday 19 April:** (to be decided – possibly a walk)
- Saturday 26 April:** Tree Survey, 10:00-12:00

Check website and notice boards for details.

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### Subscription Reminder

The annual subscription is £5 per household (£3 unwaged) and can be paid either by debit/credit card via the website or by post. Cheques should be made payable to “Friends of Highbury Park” and sent to:

M. Tyler (HPF),  
Flat 8 Britannic House,  
15 Yew Tree Road,  
Moseley,  
Birmingham B13 8NQ

Your name, address and e-mail: