



TWIG Update

Winter 2017

Happy New Year!

We have had some beautiful frosty mornings and bright days in the run up to December. December itself was very mild and we were glad of some colour in the form of Christmas trees that brightened up the long winter nights. Many of our trees have lost their leaves but this doesn't mean that our woodlands are devoid of colour. We have plenty of conifer and evergreen species growing around the city so why not visit some of our parks and woodlands? You might be lucky enough to spot some wildlife too – with bare branches, buzzards are often much easier to spot. Buzzards can often be seen on the outskirts of Dundee and in our parks and woodlands. What winter wildlife can you spot? With the shortest day behind us, January will be a month with lots of things to look forward to – even if the weather is turning colder!

Winter Tree Identification

Winter is often a tricky time to identify trees. Leaves are very useful for budding tree enthusiasts and we can find it difficult to name a tree without them. Here are some tips for our most common species:

- **Beech** has smooth, grey bark and is very distinctive
- **Silver Birch** (see right) has paper-like, white bark that most people recognise
- **Horse Chestnut** has dark, red sticky buds
- **Ash** has black, velvety buds that are easily recognisable



Photo credit <https://ioannadobson.com/2014/04/12/tree-following-april-edition/>



TWIG still want to hear from you! We can help with improving, planning and managing woodland around Dundee, so if you have a community woodland or greenspace project that you would like some advice and help with, please get in contact with our Greenspace Officer (contact below).

Woodland Management Plans

Dundee TWIG is continuing to apply for Woodlands in and around Towns (WIAT) funding from the Forestry Commission. Funding for a management plan to cover Reres Park, Broughty Ferry LNR and Baxter Park has been awarded. We are pushing ahead for funding to cover other woodlands in the city. If this funding application is accepted, grant money will be secured to look after and improve our urban woodlands for years to come. WIAT funding is used to improve urban landscapes by increasing woodland cover and improving community links with wooded areas.

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Community Spirit

Since autumn, TWIG has attended the Dundee Urban Orchard Community Harvesting Day, a wonderful event where the community were invited to harvest the apples from many of the cities orchards. There was plenty of apple juice, dancing and talking about trees. Winter is often a little devoid of events but tasks pile up! TWIG has been helping the Harris Academy Eco Group look after their meadow – we will be raking the cuttings to ensure that the ground doesn't become too fertile. Greenbuds have also been a huge help to Dundee City. They are busy with various different projects but have still been regularly helping out in our woodlands. This includes planting trees and sowing yellow rattle with the TWIG project but they are also helping to maintain Dundee Law and Middleton Woods with other Council projects. Tasks throughout winter will include more buddleia cutting at Riverside and some clearing of Sycamore regeneration at Reres Park.

The TWIG project is also working on an exciting collaboration project so keep an eye out for the next newsletter in March/April!



With thanks to Laura Campbell for providing photographs

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