

Bromley Council's Tree care - Cllr Kathy Bance

Bromley has the largest tree stock in London. Including 36,000 street trees comprising 200 species, and 24,000 trees in its parks. Last year Bromley launched a project to plant 5000 trees across the borough over a 4-year period.

We Councillors identified empty tree pits and locations in Penge for new planting and we promoted this project in newsletters, SE20 Magazine and at meetings, and were successful in gaining 100 new trees in the first year. To ensure the trees flourish in the early stages volunteers are needed to help the council's tree team to:

- remove small shoots at the base of trees.
- water young trees as they establish.
- check and adjust tree ties where necessary.
- inspect trees and report on issues including pests and diseases.

We need to identify locations for new trees for this planting season to enhance Penge's tree stock, so if you see an empty tree pit, please let us know.

To become a Tree Friend, complete the registration form or as a volunteer you can just adopt a tree near you!

**REGISTER AS A
NEIGHBOURHOOD FRIEND |
INSTRUCTIONS – LONDON
BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**

Our parks benefit greatly from the work of The Friends of Parks. They ensure our parks are well maintained and used for local community events. We supported the Friends of Penge Recreational Ground, and tree officers to plant an Orchard of 13 trees with varieties of apples, pears, plums, which should produce fruit. A Mulberry tree was also donated. St John's Primary school adopted the trees to ensure they are looked after in the early stages. Tree Officers carry out Annual Tree Inspections to ensure the safety of all our trees.

Another Bromley initiative is the piloting of naturalised areas across the borough. The only Penge area considered was the River Pool Walk and we have been successful in getting this included. Again, there is a role for Street Friends in allowing the area to naturalise and look meadowy but not unsightly. The Friends suggested the new orchard area should also naturalise and officers agreed.

Penge needs more similar projects if you have ideas but need support, please let us know.

We have supported several Jubilee Park Grants submitted by Friends of the Parks. If successful, they will increase play equipment for children and add equipment for adults in our parks. The Friends of Penge Recreational Ground have just heard that they have been successful in reaching the Portfolio Holders short list for approval.