

# TWIG Update

## Spring 2017

### Sunny Spring

Spring heralds the start of the growing season and everything seems to come alive – bats are back flying in our night skies (though not on the colder evenings), some birds have started nesting, baby squirrels are sleeping in their drays and the occasional bee is buzzing around the garden. For many, a highlight at this time of year is the wild garlic. Foraging is becoming more popular as people realise the potential for delicious recipes with ingredients picked sustainably and for free. Wild garlic has a variety of uses, including in pesto, soup and in salad. Wild garlic is a woodland species and it prefers damp soils – you can find it growing on some stretches of the Dighty burn. Care should always be taken when foraging to ensure no poisonous plants are picked.



Wild garlic (above) [taken from [marcellerosenutrition.co.uk](http://marcellerosenutrition.co.uk)]



Cherry blossom avenue at Dawson park (above)

So far we have had a lovely start to spring with lots of sunshine – and sometimes hot temperatures to match! Snowdrops have made way for daffodils and some fruit trees are starting to blossom. In the next few weeks, the blossom season will really be upon us. Some of the best places to see this beautiful spectacle include the cherry blossom avenue in Dawson Park and in some of our street trees. In addition, if you head to Camperdown Park in May, you can catch a glimpse of the purple oak (number 19 on the Camperdown Park Tree Trail – pick up your leaflet at the Forestry Office) – the leaves start off as a deep purple but gradually turn greener.

### **Urban Woodland Management Plans**

Funding for three woodland management plans to cover most of Dundee City has been granted by the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) under the Woods in and Around Towns (WIAT) funding. The areas included in the management plans are Greater Camperdown, Dundee East and Dundee West. These three areas cover important woodland sites including Camperdown Park, Templeton Woods, Reres Park, Baxter Park, Riverside Nature Park and Dundee Law, amongst others. An application is currently being assessed for a fourth woodland management plan to cover the Dighty Valley and additional sites, such as Caird Park and Middleton Woods.

If FCS then approve the management plans, we can then apply for funding to improve these woodlands for years to come. We can apply for signage and interpretation, pruning works, fencing and increased woodland cover.

### Woodland Volunteering

Throughout winter, the TWIG project was helped, once again, by Greenbuds. We were busy at Reres Hill, doing many tasks at the same time! Some volunteers collected litter, others cut back some of the overgrown vegetation and helped chop up a fallen tree to create wildlife habitat, while most of the group worked tirelessly to scrape back layers of mud and leaf litter from the paths surrounding the hill. The pathways are now recognisable again and they will help improve the experience for regular users and visitors alike. We really enjoyed working at Reres Hill and hope to do more improvement works at the site throughout 2017.

In addition to Reres Hill, Greenbuds also helped to plant lots of trees at Riverside Nature Park. The hedgerow along the field margin is now complete after three years of planting efforts by the Friends group and the local community. Greenbuds have been a huge help with this project and they even helped plant a small hazel woodland area. We are looking forward to watching the trees grow and flourish. Now that spring has arrived, our tasks take on a different nature: we can still cut back some overhanging branches but we have to carry these works out sensitively so as not to disturb any nesting birds. Most of our tasks will involve path maintenance, litter picking and surveying.



*Greenbuds planting trees at Riverside Nature Park (thanks to Laura Campbell for the photograph).*

### Friends of Dundee Law and Dundee Law Summer Event



*Dog training at the Law celebration event.*

The Friends of Dundee Law are helping to improve the Law, alongside the new Heritage Lottery funded project. If you would like to get involved then you can visit the Friends of Dundee Law [Facebook page](#). Details of any events, meetings or volunteering sessions are advertised on their page.

Last year, TWIG helped organise a celebration day on the slopes. We updated the public about the exciting changes that were planned and we organised lots of activities, including dog training, astronomy, den making, archaeology and the Countryside Ranger Service. We are hoping to help organise a similar event this summer so keep an eye out for news of this on the Friends of Dundee Law Facebook page.

**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:

Nicole Pearson – Greenspace Officer

[nicole.pearson@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:nicole.pearson@dundeecity.gov.uk)

3 City Square, Dundee, DD1 3BA