

## BIRMINGHAM TREES FOR LIFE AND FRIENDS OF WARD END PARK TREE PLANTING EVENT

Quadron and the Friends of Ward End Park were very pleased to be supporting Birmingham Trees for Life once again with the planting of much needed trees within Ward End Park on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011.



Local school children from Sattley School in Belchers Lane were invited to come and help with the tree planting. Jane Edwards and Sue Griffith from Birmingham Trees for Life explained to the children why trees are so important in the urban environment, the health benefits that they bring and why it is, therefore, so vital to ensure that trees are not vandalized and damaged within Birmingham's parks and open spaces. Don Bates from the Friends of Ward End Park was on hand to explain to the children what the park looked like in days gone by and how the trees from previous community planting events with Birmingham Trees for Life had enhanced the appearance and enriched the biodiversity of the park.



Having learnt all about the trees, the children just could not wait to be paired up with members of the Friends Group and Birmingham Trees for Life to get busy planting the half standard trees.



The semi mature trees were heavy so members from Quadron were on hand to lift the trees into the planting holes and to hold them steady whilst the really enthusiastic children got stuck in and back filled the hole with soil. Quadron's Horticultural Development Manager, Nicola Clarke, and Contract Manager for Hodge Hill, Tony Jones, were also on hand to help show the children what to do and explain more about why a plastic pipe was placed in each of the tree pits and why the trees were staked once they had been planted.



Hodge Hill Constituency Councillor, Gwen Neilly, also lent her full support to the planting event by helping to plant a replacement birch tree along one of the paths with the children and members of the Friends Group. In total seven new trees were planted within the park which included alder, silver birch and black poplar.



*Councillor Gwen Neilly, local school children and members of the Friends of Ward End Group stand proudly next to the silver birch they have just planted*



*Local children from Sallley School having fun*

All that physical work in the fresh air really worked up an appetite and the Friends of Ward End did not disappoint. Much to everyone's delight a picnic buffet lunch, prepared by Joan and Bridie, was served in the Community Garden for everyone who helped with the tree planting event. The food, as usual, was delicious and the hot tea and coffee very welcome. Everyone agreed that this was a perfect way to round off a perfect day.



*A picnic in the park generously provided by the Friends of Ward End Park*