



St James' Square Planting

Beneath the canopy of the Catalpa tree the compaction caused by mowing the grass and digging to replant seasonal bedding were becoming unsustainable. Both processes were causing harm to the tree roots, so it was necessary for an alternative to be found.

The dappled shade that the canopy provides is suitable for plants found in woodland, and the perennial species now planted are examples of shade tolerant plants. These will be left undisturbed to grow and improve over the years. The plants chosen will give colour for us to enjoy all year and equally importantly, they will provide forage for pollinating insects.

While the plants are young they need space to grow. These gaps will naturally be colonised by the native plants we call weeds, themselves beneficial to pollinators. To give more flowers in the early years, the clear areas have been sown with a few annuals, among them field poppies, a plant of particular importance to this site.

We thank Monmouthshire County Council for making this project possible and to Nature Isn't Neat for their support. For further information, or if you would like to be involved in the community maintenance of this site, phone 01600 715065 or email mail@transitionmonmouth.org