Amazing Tree Facts:

Trees can contribute to helping you, your neighbourhood and wildlife in many great ways! Here are some fantastic tree facts:

1. Trees are the biggest single element to helping wildlife in your garden. They can provide flowers, fruit and habitat for birds, insects, fungi and other beasties.
2. Trees are connected by a network of fungi growing in and around their roots. Using this fungal network, they share resources with each other. Think of it as the first communications network: trees logging on to the Wood Wide Web! Incredible interactions have been observed, such as older trees giving young saplings food to help them grow- and trees under attack (from unfriendly insects) barking out warnings for others to be on guard
3. Trees clean the air. They filter dangerous pollutants from the air using their leaves and bark. Air pollution is linked to premature death and respiratory disease so trees help us by trapping these pollutants.
4. Trees are good for your health. Recent research into the healing properties of trees claims that trees can improve mental health and reduce stress.
5. Trees clean water. During a storm rainfall runs off flooded land, collecting pollutants and transporting it into our rivers and streams. Trees help stop this by intercepting the rainfall with their leaves, branches and trunk. The roots can also hold the soil in place so that they can withstand heavy rainfall and not get washed away.
6. When it comes to beating the climate emergency, trees are one of our greatest allies. We're facing disastrous changes to the climate: extreme weather and sea level rises that will put millions of lives at risk due to an increase in CO2. Fortunately, trees absorb CO2. They use it to grow and in return release oxygen which helps us breathe.
7. Trees can recycle nutrients from deep in the soil. As trees can be very deep-rooted they can pull nutrients from in the ground and store them in their leaves. When they lose the leaves in the autumn some of these nutrients will break down in the garden and be made available for all the other plants you have growing.
8. Trees can be amazing even after they have died. 20% to 40% of woodland species are directly dependent on dead wood on the ground or in the tree tops. These can include insects, fungi and bacteria which are needed right up the food chain!

9. Areas with trees tend to have higher property values. This could be because they are beautiful and also because they are practical (by regulating both cold and warm temperatures and giving us shade and shelter). There are also studies which show that areas with trees suffer from less crime.
10. Only a small part of a tree is actually alive. This is the part of a tree under the bark which carries water and food between the roots and the leaves. Interestingly, it is the death of these layers which become the wood inside the tree. It's very important not to damage this thin living layer beneath the bark of a tree with digging or strimming around the tree.