



THE TREE
COUNCIL



Tree Warden Update

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SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE UPDATE DIRECT

Tree Wardens can sign up to receive *Tree Warden Update* by visiting this [link](#) and completing the simple form. (<http://bit.ly/giOIA2>)

DIARY DATES

Community Action Programme

The Tree Council's Community Action Programme offers lots of opportunities for Tree Wardens to get their communities thinking about the importance of trees in their neighbourhoods and doing something about it.

The programme for 2011 kicks off with:

Tree Care Campaign

21 March to 21 September

Healthy trees for a healthy future

[Read more](#)

Walk in the Woods

Throughout May

Enjoy trees, enjoy the future

[Read more](#)

And continues with:

Seed Gathering Season

23 September to 23 October

National Tree Week

26 November to 4 December

For more details of the programme and tips on TLC for young trees, to download free [Tree Care Campaign](#) and [Walk in the Woods](#) posters for advertising

Dear Tree Warden

With local authority budgets under so much pressure, volunteers like you are more important than ever to the future of your communities' trees.

Tree Wardens are already playing an important role in the Government's new Big Tree Plant campaign and this should increase as the campaign builds over the next four years. The Big Tree Plant is the first government tree planting campaign since the 1970s when it galvanised the nation to "Plant a Tree in '73" – the genesis of The Tree Council.

Other major challenges include the continuing discussions about the future of Forestry Commission woodland and the Localism Bill that is currently going through Parliament.

We wish you all the very best for Tree Wardening throughout 2011.

Margaret Lipscombe & Jon Stokes, The Tree Council

Future of England's forests

As soon as Defra releases the terms of reference for the independent panel to consider forestry policy in England, The Tree Council will be inviting representatives of all its member organisations to a forum to discuss a "third way" approach to the future of woodland currently managed by the Forestry Commission. [Read more](#)

Suspension of forestry sales

The programme of forestry sales announced in the Spending Review in October 2010 is being temporarily suspended until extra protection for access and biodiversity is put in place, Defra has announced. Once this has happened, the sales will go ahead. [Read more](#)

local events or to [register](#) all your events throughout the year for free publicity on The Tree Council website go to

[www.treecouncil.org.uk/
community-action](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/community-action)

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Tree planting grants

The deadline to apply to The Tree Council for 2011 planting grants is **31 March**.

Grants are available for school or community group projects that actively involve children under 16, with National Tree Week as the focus.

Funding is for projects between £100 and £700 and successful applicants receive up to 75 per cent towards their planting costs.

Find out more on the Tree Council website

www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants

RESOURCES

Barrier busting team

Red tape, rules and regulations can sometimes get in the way and stop people putting good ideas into action in their local communities.

The Government has set up a Barrier Busting team to help – civil servants based in Whitehall who will listen to local people's ideas and try to solve their problems, perhaps by cutting red tape, reducing the burden of regulation, or allowing for greater discretion in how local authorities spend taxpayers' money.

Find out more at

[http://barrierbusting.
communities.gov.uk/](http://barrierbusting.communities.gov.uk/)

Help with damage diagnosis

Specialist staff at Tree Council member The Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service is now offering a choice of services for people who want to find out what's causing damage to a tree – pay-as-you-go for a one-off enquiry or a faster, high-level service covering five diagnostic enquiries. Find out more at

Welsh woodlands

Meanwhile Wales' Rural Affairs Minister Elin Jones has made a firm commitment to the future public ownership of the Welsh National Forest Estate. [Read more](#)

Localism Bill unveiled

The Localism Bill, which took its first step towards becoming law in December, could have considerable bearing on Tree Wardens' activities and decisions.

The Bill has been published at

[http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-
11/localism.html](http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/localism.html).

Detail on specific measures can be found at

[www.communities.gov.uk/documents/
newsroom/word/1795339.doc](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/newsroom/word/1795339.doc).

The Government has also published *Decentralisation and the Localism Bill: an essential guide* which can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/decentralisationguide.
[Read more](#)

The Big Tree Plant launched

Tree Wardens are at the very heart of four pilot projects that are helping to get the Government's new Big Tree Plant campaign rolling. Backed by funding from the Forestry Commission, The Tree Council is working with **Walsall, Manchester, Newcastle** and **Plymouth** to get urban communities engaged in planting and caring for local trees. The first project to go ahead was in Walsall on 2 December to launch the campaign - during National Tree Week. [Read more](#)

The Big Tree Plant is a five-year England-wide campaign launched by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Funding of £4 million will be available to support planting by community groups in towns, cities and residential areas throughout England that would benefit most. To apply go to <http://thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/funding.html> If you already have activities planned, add these to The Tree Council website by filing in the form here: [www.treecouncil.org.uk/community-
action/suggest-event](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/community-action/suggest-event)

[www.treehelp.info/
diagnosis-of-tree-condition](http://www.treehelp.info/diagnosis-of-tree-condition)

Hedges as wood fuel

Robert Wolton of Hedgelink has carried out a study of *The economics of harvesting wood for heating fuel from hedgerows* on behalf of the Devon Hedge Group.

He concluded that for the species-rich hedge, laid in the traditional Devon style, which he used for his study, it was uneconomic to lay it purely for firewood to use in wood stoves.

However, if it was going to be laid anyway, and the firewood extracted as a by-product, it was a very cost-effective source of fuel, saving £198 on the costs of heating oil (1.7p per kWh).

Buying in the energy as oil would have cost 61 per cent more than the cost of extracting the wood from the laid hedge.

The study is available at www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk/portal/page?_pageid=75,20595&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Hedgelink is the partnership that brings everyone interested in hedgerows together to share knowledge and ideas, encourage and inspire, and work with farmers and other land managers to conserve and enhance our hedgerow heritage.

<http://hedgelink.org.uk/>

School hedge wallchart

A free wall chart on hedges in the Developing School Grounds for Science series is available free from the British Ecological Society.

The wallchart, produced in collaboration with Hedgelink, and associated online materials provide teachers and their students with a good introduction to the importance of hedges and their plant and animal inhabitants.

To find out more or request a free copy go to www.britishecologicalsociety.

Celebrating 20 years

The 20th anniversary of the national Tree Warden Scheme came to a climax during National Tree Week.

Celebrations included a Scottish forum, hosted by **Perth & Kinross** Council and a reception at the House of Lords where **Manchester** Tree Warden Elaine Speakman gave guests a lively glimpse of what motivates her to champion her local trees. [Read more](#)

Snowy National Tree Week

Many events scheduled for National Tree Week were hit by snow, but it was not just **Walsall** Tree Wardens who were able to go ahead with some of their plans that week.

Portsmouth and Southsea Tree Wardens, for example, joined their Lord Mayor for a commemorative tree planting.

[Read more](#)

And although the freezing conditions played havoc with **Wakefield** Tree Wardens' events, it did not dent their enthusiasm. [Read more](#)

Warwick Tree Wardens fortunately had an indoor event planned for National Tree Week – their annual Christmas Party. [Read more](#)

Welcoming new networks

Reading Borough Council is the latest local authority to start a Tree Warden Network in its area. [Read more](#)

Two more new Tree Warden networks are in the offing – there are plans to launch one in **Erewash** in Derbyshire at the end of March and in **North Somerset** in mid May.

Hedgerow Harvest

Tree Wardens in South-east England are playing an important part in The Tree Council's new project – Hedgerow Harvest. [Read more](#)

[org/educational/hedge_resources/index.php](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/educational/hedge_resources/index.php)

Weed suppressant fabric

Hartlepool Borough Council's Countryside Team has experimented with using weed suppressant fabric when planting hedges as part of a Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership project. As a result, it would now recommend this option to anyone planting in hostile environments – if resources allow. Find out more at <http://teesvalleybiodiversity.org.uk/1805/experiences-of-weed-suppressant-fabric-for-hedge-planting-in-hartlepool/>

Call to improve hedge regs

A new report from Tree Council member the Council to Protect Rural England (CPRE) calls for the current Hedgerow Regulations to be improved to give local authorities more powers to protect hedgerows that are valued in their local landscape and community. The report, *England's hedgerows: don't cut them out! Making the case for better hedgerow protection*, draws on a survey that CPRE carried out in 2010. It showed that 42 per cent of local councils want hedgerow protection rules to be made simpler to help them achieve this.

Find out more at www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/landscape/hedgerows/hedgerows-what-is-the-problem



Championing local trees

Havant Tree Warden Paul Diaper was given a grilling by budding reporters from Hart Plain Junior School during a mayoral tree planting. [Read more](#)

St Albans Tree Warden Kate Bretherton has brought out a book that tells the fascinating stories behind her local trees – and it's doing wonders to heighten awareness and appreciation. [Read more](#)

Surrey Tree Wardens got a pat on the back from a local MP as examples of the 'big society' already in action. [Read more](#)

York Tree Wardens bid a snowy farewell to a senior figure in the local conservation movement with a morning's hard digging. [Read more](#)

Technical Update

Healthy trees, healthy future

March sees the start of the tree care season – an important time of year for everyone to revisit trees they have planted in the last five years and give them the TLC they need to survive. The Tree Council looks to its Tree Wardens to spearhead its Tree Care Campaign and lead by example. [Read more](#)

Tell us your news

If you have news to report, dates to flag up or ideas and information to share with fellow Tree Wardens in the summer issue of *Tree Warden Update*, please email the details to TreeWardenUpdate@treecouncil.org.uk

Or write to Tree Warden Update, The Tree Council, 71 Newcomen Street, London SE1 1YT