



MAKE A DATE IN YOUR DIARY: KEY 2015 TREE COUNCIL CAMPAIGN DATES

2015 promises to be a busy one and with the launch of the Tree Care Campaign only a month away, we thought it would be useful to remind you of the Tree Council's community action campaigns of 2015 that you wouldn't want to miss!

The campaign theme for 2014-15 is centred around the importance of trees to neighbourhoods, encouraging social cohesion through related activities – Grow Together. More than 90% of the population lives in towns and cities (2010 Defra statistics <http://bit.ly/1qgYMMG>) so the trees are their neighbours as much as the other people in their communities are neighbours. We want to remind everyone that there are trees close to where they live, work or spend their time, that people can see and benefit from: to encourage communities to think local, to improve their neighbourhood for both people and trees.

TREE CARE CAMPAIGN

Saturday 21st March – Monday 21st September 2015

TEND AND GROW TOGETHER

The annual campaign highlights the need for better care for all trees, in order to ensure their survival and increase the numbers reaching maturity. In particular, anyone who has planted trees in the past 5 years is reminded to involve their local community and revisit them to carry out a few simple tree care tasks that can save young trees from dying and allow them to develop into the mature trees. This helps enhance our urban and rural landscape, provide shade and local climate change, and supports biodiversity.

WALK IN THE WOODS

Friday 1st May - Sunday 31st of May 2015

WALK AND GROW TOGETHER

In May every year, community groups, environmental organisations, local authorities and volunteer Tree Wardens organise Walks in the Woods – events as diverse as bluebell trails and healthy walking routes, bat and badger watches, treasure hunts, tree trails and woodland open days. It is also an annual reminder that more trees and woodlands need to be planted now if there are to be any for future generations to enjoy.

SEED GATHERING SEASON

Wednesday 23rd September to Friday 23rd October 2015

Through this autumn festival The Tree Council aims to inspire everyone, particularly school children and families, to gather seeds, fruits and nuts and grow the trees of the future. Growing trees from local seed can have great benefits in restocking areas with trees of local provenance. The concept of local provenance suggests that trees that are adapted to the local circumstances and so are likely to flourish and help restore, conserve and beautify local urban and rural spaces.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK

Saturday 28th November to Sunday 6th of December 2015

First mounted in 1975, National Tree Week is the UK's largest tree celebration annually launching the start of the winter tree planting season. It is also a great chance for communities to do something positive for their local treescape. Each year, The Tree Council's member organisations such as voluntary bodies and local authorities, up to 200 schools and community groups, 8,000 Tree Wardens and many others, support the initiative by setting up fun, worthwhile and accessible events, inspiring upward of a quarter of a million people to get their hands dirty and together plant around a million trees.

ENDS

Summary of The Tree Council's 2015-16-17 community action Tree Year Campaign dates:

Tree Year >	[2014-] 2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Campaign theme >	<i>Grow Together</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Seed Gathering Season	[n/a]	23.9.15 - 23.10.15	23.9.16 - 23.10.16
National Tree Week	[n/a]	28.11.15 - 6.12.15	26.11.16 - 4.12.16
Tree Care Campaign	21.3.15 - 21.9.15	21.3.16 - 21.9.16	21.3.16 - 21.9.17
Walk in the Woods	1.5.15 - 31.5.15	1.5.16 - 31.5.16	1.5.17 - 31.5.17

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. For further information, please contact (press enquiries only)

Pauline Buchanan Black, Director-General; land line: 020 7407 9992 / mobile: 07753 690495

Margaret Lipscombe, Programme Director; mobile: 07967 201 624

Jon Stokes, Programme Director; mobile: 07850 389 862

Visit The Tree Council's website, <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/> for details on each of the community action programmes. Event information is also available from the Tree Council info line, 020 7940 8180 (office hours)

2. The Tree Council

Environmental charity The Tree Council is the UK's lead charity for trees in all settings, urban and rural, promoting their importance in a changing environment and it works in partnership with communities, organisations and government to make trees matter to everyone. As the coalition body for over 180 organisations working together for trees, it focuses on getting more trees, of the right kind, in the right places; better care for all trees of all ages and inspiring effective action for trees.

It works with its national volunteer Tree Warden Scheme and member organisations to engage people in biodiversity and environmental issues and to promote planting and conservation of trees and woods in town and country. A major part of this is achieved through its annual Community Action Programme that includes Walk in the Woods month, Seed Gathering Season and National Tree Week (first run in March 1975), and through supporting groups organising local events.

It operates a tree-planting grants programme for UK schools and communities to plant trees and create woodland habitats, as well as working on an agenda for change that includes its annual Tree Care Campaign, the Green Monuments Campaign and Hedge Tree Campaign.