



Press Release

Embargo date: 26th April 2013

Walk in the Woods: throughout May 2013

CHANGE YOUR VIEW – LOOK UP!

During the last six months, the elements have not been kind to us or our environment. Most people are walking around with heads down, fighting the sharp winds as each navigates the route between home and the place we have to be. With current weather indications suggesting that May will be more typical of what we might expect, we can look forward to lifting our heads up again soon and taking in what is happening around us on a May *Walk in the Woods*.

In this 40th anniversary year of the *Plant a Tree in '73* campaign that The Tree Council was formed to run, it is urging everyone to during the month of May to change their view, value the trees around them and think about the importance of planting more for future generations. Whatever your interest, from dawn chorus to bat walk, there will be something organised by a local group or one of The Tree Council's volunteer Tree Wardens that will give you a reason to look up in to the tree canopy and be grateful to the generation that planted the seeds.

Across the country, everyone will be able to head for their nearest trees and appreciate what they've been missing since last November. What is it, after all, that lifts the townscapes and makes the countryside appear even greener? Yes, those living things we all take for granted but that serve us so well in so many settings, those green monuments to past events and markers of time, the shade on our streets and the rustle in the breeze, trees.

Although the wood anemones have yet to reveal their petals and the frogspawn is still slow to show, only a small amount of sunshine will encourage us all to turn our faces to the sky and look up in wonder as the sap starts rising and a mass of green erupts. In woodlands, the ground will soon be carpeted with wildflowers from bluebells to ramsons and the wildlife that has been hibernating will start to emerge. What will we see?

"I know that the buds on the rowan will be fattening by the day, ready to send out a froth of green whilst the lime will be even quicker to oblige, a haze of yellowy mist spreading steadily into a more solid form. There is nothing as uplifting as witnessing that at first hand" said Pauline Buchanan Black, Director-General of The Tree Council. "There are walks and activities to suit everyone, being organised by people all over the country in both urban and rural woodlands;" she added, "from places that are easily accessible by those who will find rugged terrain difficult and tours of interesting street or park trees, right the way through to more challenging trails, there will be fresh views that will change your view."

ENDS

See over for further information

For further information, please contact (press enquiries only)

Pauline Buchanan Black; land line: 020 7407 9992 / mobile: 07753 690495

Margaret Lipscombe; mobile: 07967 201 624

Jon Stokes; mobile: 07850 389 862

NOTE TO EDITORS

1. About The Tree Council's **Walk in the Woods** Month

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.

For further information and a copy of the **poster**, please visit the Walk in the Woods pages on The Tree Council's website, <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/community-action/walk-in-the-woods> or call us on 020 7940 8180 (office hours).

For a list of Walk in the Woods and other **events** taking place around the country, visit <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/community-action/events-map>. **Images available on request.**

2. About **The Tree Council**

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. 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 programme of **Community Action campaigns** that includes **Walk in the Woods** month as well as **Seed Gathering Season** and **National Tree Week**. It also 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 **Tree Care Campaign**, **Green Monument Campaign** and **Hedge Tree Campaign**.

3. **Friends of The Tree Council**

For the first time, individuals who want to support the work of the volunteer Tree Wardens and the Walk in the Woods events that they organise can do so with regular, small donations. In an innovative move, the scheme will make a direct difference both locally and nationally; when a donation is gift aided, the donor can choose to allocate that gift aid to a Tree Warden Network, who put the funds to work in their neighbourhood. This means that **if someone donates £33pa, £8.25 will be spent in their community**.

Friends of The Tree Council all receive copies of Tree News, The Tree Council's bi-annual magazine and may also take advantage of exclusive offers. Read more about the Friends scheme at <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/press-and-news/item/4015-friends-of-the-tree-council> and sign up online at www.treecouncil.org.uk/friends