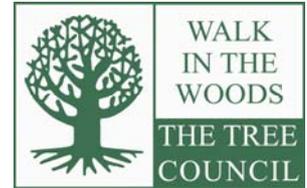




Press Release

Embargo date: 26th April 2014



Walk in the Woods:
throughout May 2014

SEE THE DIFFERENCE.....

In this 40th anniversary year of The Tree Council, we are urging everyone during the month of May to get out into the woods or walk around trees in their neighbourhoods and just look at what a difference they make to the landscape. Imagine if the Victorians hadn't put plane trees in London's streets; if boat builders at the time of the Battle of Trafalgar hadn't planted oak trees to provide their successors with materials for a new fleet, or more recently, the planners hadn't made space for flowering cherry trees to line residential roads. Close your eyes and imagine that. See the difference?

With the bouts of sunshine that have been escaping from behind the clouds recently has come the steady spread of green as leaves start to burst. Trees and woods will be in different stages of revival as spring creeps across the landscape but everywhere, there will be surprises and treats to be seen. Wood anemones with their delicate white petals on the woodland floor; bluebells at every stage from dark greeny-blue knots to bright blue carpets; even unexpected plantings at the base of street trees or shaded grass in the parks. Trees complete the scene.

"We have such a diverse treescape in the UK but we don't always appreciate how fortunate we are" said Pauline Buchanan Black, Director-General of The Tree Council. "There are trees of all shapes and sizes and leaves of every colour and form. There will be tree identification 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 every opportunity to see the difference that trees make."

ENDS

See over for further information

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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**

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 Friends scheme makes 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