



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 2015/16 THE TREE COUNCIL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMMES

Communities Rooted To Trees

During the forthcoming tree year we want to highlight the immense contribution that a strong community and collective action play in tree protection and care. The 2015/16 theme – *Communities Rooted To Trees* – aims to guide and inspire communities to act on conservation issues. Just as trees need their roots to be cared for in order for them to thrive, so communities must be tended to enable them to grow and flourish.

Healthy trees grow from healthy roots, and healthy communities are those with a strong foundation. Successful community engagement, as demonstrated by The Tree Council's Tree Warden networks and community action programmes, comes from the ground, up. Wherever they grow, if the roots of our trees aren't receiving nutrition and water, their chances of healthy survival and growth are limited. To get community engagement right needs the same support.

Key 2015/16 community action programmes:

Seed Gathering Season Wednesday 23rd September to Friday 23rd October 2015
PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

Through this autumn campaign 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.

National Tree Week Saturday 28th November to Sunday 6th December 2015
ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY

First mounted in 1975, this will be the 40th anniversary of National Tree Week – the UK's largest tree celebration annually launching the start of the winter tree planting season.

Tree Care Campaign Monday 21st March 2016 to Wednesday 21st September 2016
BACK TO OUR ROOTS

The annual Tree Care Campaign highlights the need for better care for all trees, in order to ensure their survival and increase the numbers reaching maturity.

Walk in the Woods month Sunday 1st May 2016 to Tuesday 31st May 2016
ROOTING FOR TREES

Every May, community groups, environmental organisations, local authorities and volunteer Tree Wardens organise Walks in the Woods to highlight the many benefits of trees and the need for their conservation and care.

ENDS

Summary of The Tree Council's 2015-16-17-18 community action Tree Year Campaign dates:

Tree Year >	[2015-] 2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Campaign theme >	<i>Communities Rooted to Trees</i>	TBC	TBC
Seed Gathering Season	23.9.15 - 23.10.15	23.9.16 - 23.10.16	23.9.17 - 23.10.17
National Tree Week	28.11.15 - 6.12.15	26.11.16 - 4.12.16	25.11.17 - 2.12.17
Tree Care Campaign	21.3.16 - 21.9.16	21.3.16 - 21.9.17	21.3.16 - 21.9.17
Walk in the Woods	1.5.16 - 31.5.16	1.5.17 - 31.5.17	1.5.18 - 31.5.18

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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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.