

# Tree For All campaign

## Background

The Woodland Trust's **Tree For All** campaign to plant 12 million trees in five years began in September 2004. It is a tough target to say the least; 12 million trees planted by one million children across the UK. But two years into the landmark project over half a million people, the majority being school children, have planted three and a half million trees across the UK. In all, approximately 9000 schools, 534 community groups and 100 major partners have been involved so far, not to mention celebrities including Dame Judi Dench, Ray Mears and Penny Smith. In all since the campaign started over 1,618 hectares (4000 acres) of new woodland has been created.

## Inspiring future guardians

**Tree For All** is the UK's largest ever children's tree planting campaign - is about inspiring young people to become future guardians of the natural environment and to encourage people to become more in touch with nature by increasing understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Research shows that contact with woods and nature makes us feel better about ourselves. Modern lifestyles are causing children to go through childhood with little or no connection with their natural environment. In a recent survey carried out by the Woodland Trust, 19 per cent of families with children had not visited a wood in the last year.

**Tree For All** is a call to action at a time when the protection and planting of new woodland is becoming increasingly important as our natural world comes under siege. Woods around the UK are under threat from climate change, modern developments and often from sheer indifference.

Woodland is a precious and irreplaceable asset and is one of the UK's richest wildlife habitats, providing immense social and economic benefits. In the last 100 years nearly half our woodland, including priceless trees more than 400 years old, have been lost to make way for conifer plantations, agriculture, houses, motorways and airports. **Tree For All** is important because the UK needs millions more trees. Less than 12 per cent of the UK is woodland compared with an average for European countries of 46 per cent.

## Free Hedge and Copse packs for Schools and youth groups

Open to schools, youth and community groups are the **Tree For All** free Hedge or Copse packs. The hedge pack contains 30 native plants [Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Dog rose and Elder] and can be planted as traditional hedgerow. Since the launch of this scheme, UK schoolchildren have contributed to the reinstatement of 100 km of hedgerows. This is good news considering that since the 1930s, fifty per cent of the UK's ancient woods have been felled or damaged and 190,000km of hedgerow destroyed.

Bill Bryson, a keen supporter of the Woodland Trust, says the children's work is hugely important: "Thousands of miles of hedgerows disappeared during the last century, in the wake of agricultural development which is a crime against the countryside. The Woodland Trust's hedge and copse initiative goes some small way to address the balance by planting new hedgerows. Planting them with help from the next generation is an effective way to get the message across that we need to conserve the hedgerows we have left and to replace the ones we have thoughtlessly and needlessly ripped out."

The planting of hedges and copses will attract wildlife and give schools 'living classrooms' which pupils can enjoy for years to come. The Woodland Trust will be continuing the **Tree For All** campaign of planting events with schools and through public community planting sessions. Individuals can attend a local planting event, organise their own planting events for the local community, or they can get involved by planting a tree in their own garden. For more information on planting trees in your own garden visit; [www.nativetreeshop.org.uk](http://www.nativetreeshop.org.uk)

For more information on the **Tree For All** campaign and how you can get involved visit; [www.treeforall.org.uk](http://www.treeforall.org.uk) or contact:

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