

## The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme

Tree Wardens are a national force of local tree champions and a key part of The Tree Council's community action programme.

The Tree Council, which launched the Tree Warden Scheme in 1990, co-ordinates it nationally. It works with local authorities, voluntary organisations, parish councils and local partnerships to set up and develop Tree Warden networks – in town, city and countryside.

Today there are many thousands of Tree Wardens in local networks throughout the UK, forming a volunteer force of immense value to the environment. Together they devote nearly two million volunteer hours a year to trees – time worth about £13 million.



## Action for local trees

As local tree champions, Tree Wardens are the eyes and ears of their neighbourhoods. Community involvement is a central aim of the scheme.

Some Tree Wardens work with local schools or groups, developing imaginative projects to encourage others to value the community's trees and woods. Involving children and youth groups helps to reduce vandalism.

Many wardens lead guided tree walks – often as part of the national Walk in the Woods festival that The Tree Council organises each May – and give talks to local groups.

Tree Wardens help farmers to lay hedges or tag hedge trees. They also encourage local environmental improvement projects and plan tree planting for The Tree Council's National Tree Week.



## Volunteer tree champions

The Tree Warden Scheme gives people who feel that trees matter an opportunity to:

- champion their local trees and woods
- plant and care for trees
- carry out woodland management
- set up tree nurseries using seeds collected locally
- survey trees and gather information about them
- provide early warning of threats, disease, decay, or vandalism
- involve their neighbours in tree projects
- get together with like-minded people for training and field trips
- spearhead Tree Council initiatives, such as its Hedge Tree Campaign to reverse the decline of trees in hedges.

These volunteers work closely with tree officers and conservation bodies, who are key to the scheme's success.





## How to find out more

New Tree Wardens are always welcome and the first step for anyone interested in volunteering is to find out if there is a local network and then to contact the co-ordinator.

The Tree Warden Scheme networks in England, Wales and Scotland are listed on The Tree Council's website (visit [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)), with details of local contacts. Information is also available from The Tree Council (see details below).

Anyone thinking of starting a new local Tree Warden network – urban or rural – should contact The Tree Council for advice and support.

Tree Warden Scheme is an official trademark, registered to The Tree Council



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or visit the website: [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

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## Twenty years of success

The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme celebrated its twentieth anniversary on September 19, 2010 – there are around 8,000 Tree Wardens in more than 150 local networks doing voluntary work for their communities' trees.

Over the past 20 years, volunteer Tree Wardens have:

- dedicated an amazing 22 million hours of their time
- which is worth a staggering £154 million pounds
- AND planted over six million trees.

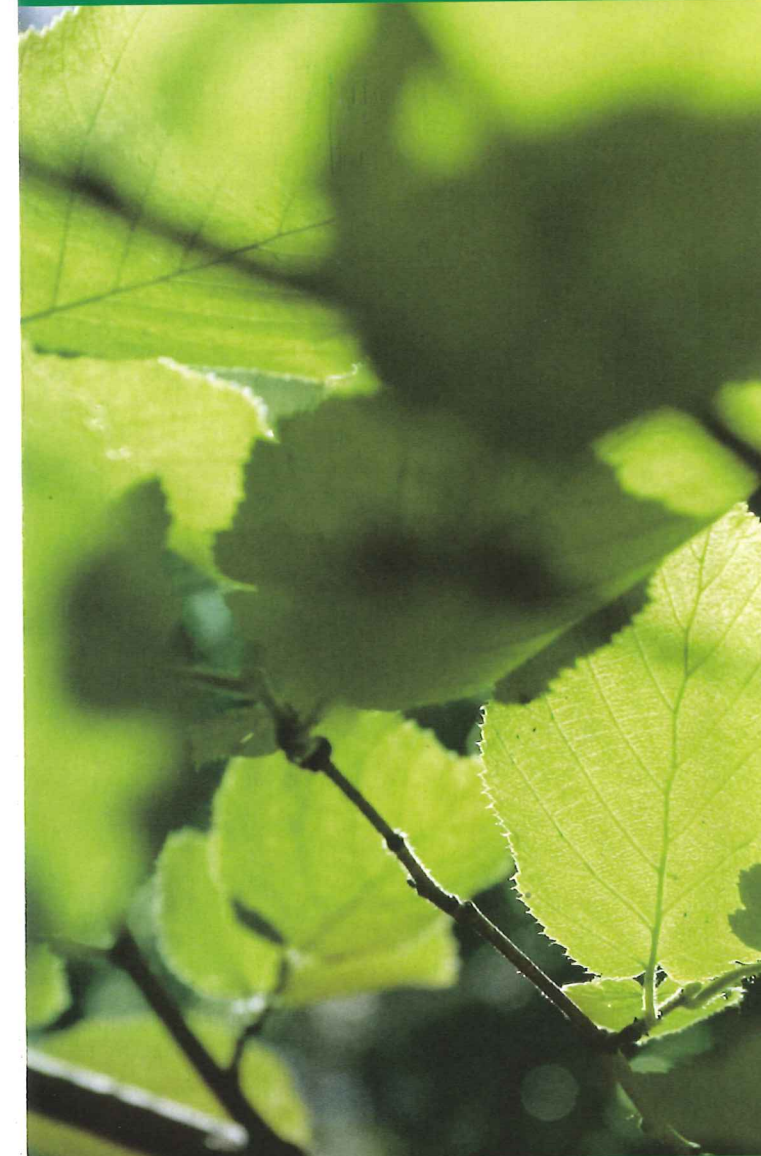
The Tree Council, the UK's lead tree campaigning partnership, works with its member organisations, Tree Wardens and others for more trees, of the right kind, in the right places; for better care for all trees, of all ages; and to inspire effective action for trees. Its goal is to make trees matter to everyone – and Tree Wardens are key to achieving this.



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## How volunteer Tree Wardens make a difference