



Get Planning, then get Planting: Woodland Trust FREE Community Tree Packs

Thanks to the generosity of the Woodland Trust, and the involvement of numerous community groups up and down the country, over 500,000 trees from free community tree packs were planted during the Spring. Applications for Autumn 2011 are now invited, with a closing date of 30th September 2011. There will be 1,000 packs available, with more planned for 2012. The packs are supplied to community groups who have identified a piece of land where they can plant native trees for the enjoyment and benefit of the local community. There are two pack sizes available: 105 and 420 (the latter come with protective canes and spirals); and four "themes": wildlife, year round colour, wood fuel, and wild harvest.

One group which benefited from the Spring packs was Pickmere Village Parish Council, near Knutsford, who successfully applied for a 420 wildlife pack, with the aim of encouraging wildlife and creating a new nature trail in their village. Pickmere resident Simon Read applied for the pack, which comprised blackthorn, hawthorn, oak, birch, rowan, and hazel trees. On an overcast day in late Spring, over 50 residents, aged between three and 80, gathered to help plant the trees around the lakeside area where the village holds events. Some of the hawthorn trees were reserved to repair hedges around the village. Mr Read commented that, "This was a really positive event for the whole village, helping to further strengthen the bonds between us at the same time as enhancing our local area. I would encourage all community groups to look at their outdoor areas, to see if the Woodland Trust's scheme can help them enhance their surroundings for future generations."

Inspired? Find out more – and apply - at <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/moretrees-moregood/get-involved/plant-trees/Pages/apply-community-tree-pack.aspx>. Applicants will be notified by 10th October 2011, regarding whether or not they have been successful, and the tree packs will be sent out in November.

ENDS