

Words and Deeds

Love it or lose it – share your woodland memories with the Woodland Trust

Love it or lose it, the new website from the Woodland Trust, comes complete with its very own competition. Based on the theme of memories, people are invited to submit their thoughts or images of favourite or fondly remembered trees or woods.

The Trust hopes that by encouraging the public to think about their memories of trees and woods it will be the first step on a journey to caring for and protecting these natural wonders as they come under ever-increasing threats.

As well as the Your Memories section, the website also has several other sections: Threats to our trees – information on threats from climate change, pests and diseases, and the demand for new housing and transport routes; What are we doing – information on the Trust's work, including conserving the best (ancient woodland), restoring degraded habitat (through partnerships and work with landowners), and creating new woodland (including lobbying and providing advice to landowners); Get involved – lots of ways for the public to help; and a blog. And the young – and young-at-heart – can watch a video of Shaun the Sheep saving a tree!

Woodland Trust Site Manager, Colin Riley, said: "Do you remember the first time you climbed a tree, or played hide and seek in a wood? If you share these memories on our new website, you will be inspiring other people to visit and care about woodland, as well as having the chance to win a fantastic prize."

There is one prize of a seven-night, self-catering holiday in a three-bedroomed Golden Oak cabin (complete with outdoor hot tub) at one of Forest Holidays' eight locations – Argyll, Strathyre, Keldy, Cropton, Sherwood Forest, Forest of Dean, Blackwood Forest or Deerpark. The closing date for entries is 7th July 2013, and wildlife photographer and naturalist Simon King will select the winner.

All the terms and conditions are on the website – www.loveitorloseit.org.uk – so what are you waiting for? Pick up a pen, pencil or paintbrush and write (poem, short story, or longer prose), draw or paint your tree-mendous (sorry!) memories; or root (and again, sorry!) through your photographs for a stunning image of a well-loved tree. Or nip out to your local wood during National Picnic Week (17th-23rd June) and create and record some new memories – there is a link on the website to VisitWoods, the Woodland Trust's searchable database of UK woods, where you can find the nearest to your home, or one with specific features (options include various wildlife and nearby public transport).

Let me turn your deeds into words