

# Perth and Kinross Tree warden Network

# NEWSLETTER



## Introduction and Welcome

The Perth and Kinross Tree Warden Network (PKTWN) is getting up to gear again post-pandemic and as you will see from the Events Programme we are, at last, planning to roll out the Tree Council training modules over the coming year. We hope these will act as refreshers to our long-term members but also reassure new members that there is a lot of support available.

Getting out on site is all-important so that we can meet each other and discover our strengths and key interests. With the twin biodiversity and climate change crises now recognized by both local and national government, it falls on the voluntary sector to fill the gaps, decide what we can contribute individually and together. We are at such a stage with the PKTWN – there will be some Tree Wardens who prefer to check planning applications and grow a few tree seeds in a pot at the back door. There will be other Tree Wardens who are keen to get their hands dirty planting trees or pruning fruit trees, helping other groups with their tree projects – or helping survey Ancient Trees or hedgerows. Whatever your skills, whatever time you can contribute, you are very welcome!

We look forward to welcoming you to the training modules and all that follows from them.

Catherine Lloyd, Hon. Chair

## Launch of our Training Module Programme

### Trees & The Law

The very first training session for 2024 will be run online by Ormungandr, our trainer. He will go through the Tree Council's presentation and then we can have a brief Q&A session afterwards.

8pm until 9pm

Thursday, 21st March

Online

Please confirm your booking via [o.melchizedek@hotmail.com](mailto:o.melchizedek@hotmail.com)

(Pre-book by 16th March)

Our second online training session will again be run by Ormungandr –

### Introduction to Hedgerows

8pm until 9pm

Tuesday, 23rd April

Online

Please confirm your booking via [o.melchizedek@hotmail.com](mailto:o.melchizedek@hotmail.com)

(Pre-book by 19th April)

The new Programme of Events is at the end of the Newsletter. We are arranging a site visit as part of the training series on Saturday, 15th June, but we have also been invited to join a walk on 21st April at Black Spout Woods. Details will be shared nearer the date.

### **Regional Forum 2024**

**We are looking forward to welcoming staff from the Tree Council to another Regional Forum this spring. Last year's get-together was held at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh where we also met with the new Fife Tree Wardens Group. It was a great success and a very enjoyable day.**

**We are currently planning to host an event in our patch – hopefully on the Carse of Gowrie at the end of May or some time in June. Watch this space!**

## Warm Welcome

Grace, who comes from the University of Dundee, is currently undertaking a short internship to help the PKTWN. She is studying environmental science and geography. She says "This is my first time working with something associated with my course as my knowledge is still limited. Not only can the placement allow me to gain more work experience, but it can also give me more practical skills on growing and keeping healthy trees, maintaining biodiversity, and understanding how the government and other organisations are protecting the natural environment." Grace has been kept very busy setting up the programme of events and preparing this e-newsletter with us.

## Training and Events in 2024

This year, we will continue to roll out the Tree Council's training modules for existing and new Tree Wardens alike. We have already undertaken the induction session and will be inviting everyone to a mix of online webinars and site visits. There will also be more practical activities this year, added to the programme as time goes on. A certificate will be given to members who participate in all the training events.

## A new Golden Orchard for Kinross-shire



© PKTWN

The Tree Council is celebrating its 50th anniversary and over the winter offered fifty golden fruit orchards to Tree Wardens and associated groups. The village of Crook of Devon were the successful applicants in our patch and will be having a planting weekend on 9th/ 10th March. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Catherine at [caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk).

Tree varieties producing special golden fruit have been especially selected, including a mixture of apples: Julia's Late Golden, Paradise Gold and Golden Glow and Golden Delicious, Crab Apples: Golden Gem and Golden Hornet; Mirabelle Plums and Gages: Golden Sphere and Oullins Golden; plus an unusual, large-berried Hawthorn called 'Big Golden Star' whose fruit taste like apples! We have said no to the two apricots which were part of the mix as we suspect they would not have been hardy enough to cope with the Scottish winter, but greatly look forward to seeing the others establish and grow.

© PKTWN

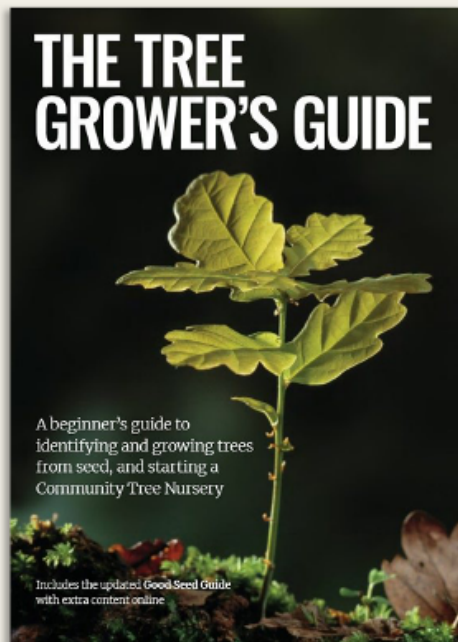


# Creating a Mini Tree Nursery Tree planting or natural colonisation?

The Tree Council has already held an online event to introduce how to plant and grow our own trees. It covered the reasons why there should be more trees planted and grown by us. Moreover, it also discusses the reasons behind community tree nurseries and why they are essential. It provided a calendar for participants to follow to grow their own trees.

The “Get Sowing” webinar is now available to watch - <https://youtu.be/vTa0JCUQgaA>. It is an hour long with an extra 30 minutes for questions and answers.

A copy of The Tree Grower’s Guide - The Tree Grower’s Guide - The Tree Council can be downloaded from here.



To help inform future forestry policy, Forest Research, the University of Stirling, and others are investigating the most effective ways to increase tree cover. Should human assistance be the default method for tree growing?

The TreE PlaNat project is seeking to hear from land managers of all types on which tree establishment methods they would choose and why. If they were to expand a patch of woodland. Please share your thoughts by participating in this [national survey](#).

## Tree Council Webinar - Healthy, Happy Trees (including spring seed sowing)

This lunchtime event for “creating a mini tree nursery”, will be held on 26th March from 1 pm until 2.30 pm. It will help us to explore what we need to consider when designing a tree growing space. It will also outline the basics of biosecurity and how best for us to grow a healthy tree. There will be case studies to explain how everyone can grow trees by themselves and how to manage seeds that are germinating in spring. Please sign up as soon as possible via [Join the guestlist – Healthy, Happy Trees – Creating your own little tree nursery, how to grow healthy, happy trees and Spring seed sowing – Zoom, Tue 26 Mar 2024 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM \(tickettailor.com\)](#).

# Being a Young Tree Grower

The main Tree Growers Guide has already been mentioned. There are, however, two versions of the guides. The Young Tree Growers Guide is recommended for primary and secondary school students it is available here: <https://treegrowersguide.org.uk/ytgg/>. However, even as an adult beginner, this guide will be useful. In contrast, if you are already experienced in planting trees and already understand the basics behind growing trees, the first Tree Growers Guide would be more suitable for you to use.

If you know of any schools where we can encourage the young pupils to have an interest in growing trees, please let us know as it can also allow them to learn growing skills and contribute to their local community.

## New Tree Guard-ians

Everywhere you look there are plantings of trees which have either been abandoned or are just not cared for. Many of the trees are being strangled by old tree guards or falling over because their stakes have failed or been removed.

There is an opportunity here for us Tree Wardens. First of all, we need a list of housing developments, parks or road verges where trees with failing guards or stakes need help so that permission can be gained to offer our help. Then we need an informal group of Guard-ian volunteers who can occasionally go to the trees' aid. It would just need a handful of Guard-ians to arrange half day get-togethers and hold an inventory of tools (or know where local tools could be borrowed). Tree Wardens could go out together to a local spot, or a larger group could be arranged occasionally to tackle a specific area.

If you think this is a good idea and could help as a local (and very occasional) Guard-ian co-ordinator or volunteer, please let us know via [info@PerthandKinrossTreeWardens.co.uk](mailto:info@PerthandKinrossTreeWardens.co.uk). We would only do as much as we want to, so it does not have to be onerous.



© PKTWN

## Hedgerow Survey Opportunities

Although hedgerow legislation is strong in England and Wales, it is negligible in Scotland. However, to help safeguard local native hedges, Tree Wardens are welcome to undertake their own surveys, alone or with one or two other people. There are a number of complicated survey methods for which training is essential. However, by using the PTES Healthy Hedgerows Survey, this is a quick and easy assessment which can be used both locally and nationally. More information is available here [Healthy Hedgerows on paper \(ptes.org\)](https://www.ptes.org), with the survey form and hedge structure key downloadable from the same page.

We are currently looking into what will be best for the training modules where hedges are concerned, but as spring gets under way, please consider starting your own hedge surveys (the best time is May through to July).

## Tree Preservation Orders

Perth & Kinross Council has a very useful Tree Preservation Order resource which can be found at [www.pkc.gov.uk/heritagemap](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/heritagemap). If you are unsure whether a local tree has a TPO on it, you can check it on this interactive map!

## Ancient Tree Inventory

The Woodland Trust hosts the ATI to encourage including all the old trees we know and love on to a map. There are already more than 190,000 trees listed but there are many more to add. Can you help find them? Learn more here: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>



## Your Say

***What would you like to see included in future e-newsletters? If you have ideas for articles or can provide one yourself, please let us know.***

## Practical Projects Organiser Needed

With new members joining there will be an increasing opportunity for us to get involved in practical volunteering – removing tree guards, planting trees, pruning fruit trees or checking for disease. Someone with an interest in these activities is needed to liaise with a few key people or organisations to arrange a handful of seasonal events for such volunteers. This would be very much something to build upon, starting small with just one or two trial events and then increasing the volunteering opportunities as time goes on. Please get in touch if you can help.

# Arboricultural Association – Free Webinars

The Association has a great series of archived webinars on its website – so if you have not seen them in the first place, or would like to see them again, explore [Arboricultural Association - Webinar Archive \(trees.org.uk\)](https://www.trees.org.uk) and set an hour or two aside to enjoy an informative catch up.



## What is a Tree Warden?

There are some 200 networks of fantastic volunteer tree champions all around the UK. We are local tree champions who plant, look after and stand up for the trees in our patch. No experience in tree management is needed – just a love of trees and a few hours to spare. During 2024 Tree Council training modules will be rolled out which will be of equal help to long-term and new members.

In Perth & Kinross there will be some 25 Biodiversity Villages, Neighbourhoods and Towns set up in the next couple of years. We hope each of these settlements will have at least one, preferably two new Tree Wardens who can join our Network.



*Whether you want to get your hands dirty by planting trees, raising awareness about trees in the local community, or simply be the eyes, ears and voice for the trees in your village or street, anyone can be a Tree Warden! Please join us.*

### These are just some of the tasks that Tree Wardens can get involved in:

- Check planning applications and alert the local authority of any veteran or mature trees which are in danger;
- Join others in measuring trees and adding the information into the Ancient Tree Inventory (it can also be a solo task if you prefer!);
- Help undertake surveys of trees for diseases and pests;
- Join in surveys of hedgerows, orchards, or invertebrates in/around trees;
- Recommend sites for tree planting in your local area;
- Seek tree planting opportunities; arrange or help with local tree planting days;
- Prune, water and give vital aftercare to local trees after planting;
- Assist with fruit tree planting and tree care in community and school orchards;
- Work with the local authority to survey or care for our precious street or graveyard trees;
- Help rejuvenate local woodlands or local housing development trees in need of management;
- Talk to as many people as possible about the value of trees;
- Take part in local events to raise awareness of what it means to be a Tree Warden.

## The Tree Council's Guidance Hub

In addition to the training sessions the Council is arranging for all its Tree Wardens, there is a very useful website resource where you can download past webinars and guidance notes, all prepared by the Tree Council's knowledgeable staff: [Guidance Hub - The Tree Council](#). The fabulous Young Tree Growers' Guide is part of this Hub and features a beginner's guide to identifying and growing trees from seed, and starting a Community Tree Nursery: [The Young Tree Growers Guide - The Tree Council](#)

## Signs of spring!

Could you feel the warm and humid weather? Did you find more wildlife animals? Why would it be like that? Because "Spring is coming". It is a great moment for us to celebrate this season which is full of vitality. It is time for you to come out to experience this nature and not sitting in your house. This spring, the Tree council will still publish various walking routes across the UK. Here is the blossom ID guide and to help everyone exploring this natural environment easily: [Spring in Your Step - The Tree Council](#). Let the Tree Council know your plans for your Spring in Your Step walk - send details via [submit an application](#). Besides, there is an audio of our forest bathing for you to escape from reality for a while: [forest bathing audio](#).

## More events for celebrating Spring

### Trees Love Care

Date: 20 March

Our TLC campaign runs from the spring equinox (20 March) to the autumn equinox (22 September). There will be a series of activities, advice and reminders on how best to care for all our lovely trees, especially in their early years

### National hedgerow Week

Date: 6-12 May



# EVENTS

2024

March  
**21** Trees and the Law (Online)  
8 pm - 9 pm

T B C Hedgelaying Training Course  
(practical)  
all day

April  
**21** A walk at Black Spout Woods  
(practical)  
1:30 pm start

April  
**23** Introduction to hedgerows  
(Online)  
8 pm - 9 pm

June  
**15** Tree Biology (Site Visit)  
10 am - 4 pm

June  
T B C Regional Forum Get-  
Together ,Megginch Castle  
,Errol  
10 am - 4 pm

July  
T B C Threats and Challenges  
facing our trees (Site Visit)  
10 am - 4 pm

Sep  
T B C Hedges and the law (Online)  
8 pm - 9 pm

Sep  
T B C Hedge planting and  
growing (Online)  
8pm - 9pm

Sep  
T B C Woodland Wanders  
An informal learning walk

**Perth and  
Kinross Tree  
Wardens  
Network**

Tree Council  
training  
modules and  
informal  
events



For bookings and further  
details, please contact  
[info@PerthandKinrossTree  
Wardens.co.uk](mailto:info@PerthandKinrossTreeWardens.co.uk)

[www.perthandkinrosstree  
wardens.co.uk](http://www.perthandkinrosstree<br/>wardens.co.uk)

**Guests are very welcome to join us!**

*This E-Newsletter has been researched, compiled and edited by Grace Ling and Catherine Lloyd and designed by Grace Ling. News and articles are very welcome so please contribute to the next edition with photos, ideas or news. Please send to [info@PerthandKinrossTreeWardens.co.uk](mailto:info@PerthandKinrossTreeWardens.co.uk).*

**Join us on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/PerthandKinrossTreeWardens/>

<http://www.perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk>