

## MEMBER OF THE MONTH – WOODLAND TRUST

As the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, we are the leading voice for woods and trees. We campaign to [protect](#) precious ancient woods, [restore](#) the ones that are damaged and fight for those under threat. We [create](#) new native woodland around the UK with the help of communities, schools, organisations and individuals.



We aim to inspire people up and down the country to visit woods, plant trees, treasure wildlife, and enjoy the overwhelming benefits that woods and trees offer to our landscape and lives.

Founded in 1972, we now own more than 1,000 wildlife-rich woods throughout the UK. We extended into Northern Ireland in 1996 and now care for 50 woods right throughout the province: all are open and free for everyone to enjoy.

Trees and woodland contribute to our quality of life in so many ways. The provision of green spaces can, for example, benefit both physical and mental health and, in turn, reduce the wider costs of health care. Yet despite undoubted benefits, Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded countries in Europe, with just 8 per cent woodland cover compared to the European average of 44 per cent. With collective efforts, we're working hard to redress this situation.

### SCHOOLS, YOUTH GROUPS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS:



We are giving away **free** packs of native trees to schools and community groups.

Groups can now choose between packs of 30, 105 or 420 saplings, depending on how much space they have to plant. There are different mixes of tree species to choose from too, including packs themed for autumn colour, wood fuel and wildlife.

Planting trees is the perfect way to help children and young people connect with and learn about nature. To find out more, head to [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees)

### LANDOWNERS AND FARMERS:

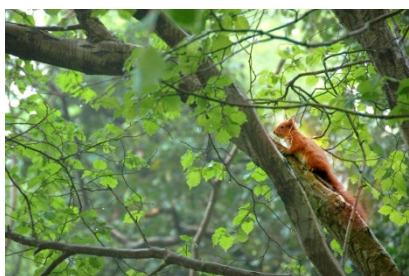
We are also helping landowners to bring the beauty of woodland to their doorstep. We offer free expert advice and, in some cases funding, to help get tree planting underway.

Gregor Fulton, the Trust's operations manager, says: "There are numerous reasons for planting – from enhancing the appearance of unused land to creating a habitat for wildlife or providing shelter for livestock. And these days, more and more people are avoiding the increasing cost of traditional fuel supplies by growing their own firewood. Depending on what tree species are planted, you could be coppicing your own firewood within a decade."



For more information call 0330 333 5303 or email [plant@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:plant@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

## A CHARTER FOR TREES, WOODS AND PEOPLE



We are leading over 40 cross-sector organisations from across the UK in a call to celebrate, and secure the future of, our trees and woodland by creating a **Charter for Trees, Woods and People**.

Our country's woods and trees are facing unprecedented pressures from development, disease and climate change. They risk being neglected, undervalued and forgotten.

The charter will be rooted in individuals' stories and memories; it will provide guidance and inspiration to shape government policy; and will seek to enlist Charter Champions who will inspire and rally friends and communities to stand up for trees and woodland. Funding will be available for local events and projects that reconnect people with nature.

Get involved and share stories of what trees mean to you at [www.treecharter.uk](http://www.treecharter.uk)

## FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY WOODS PROJECT: BRACKFIELD WOOD

One hundred years have passed since the outbreak of the First World War, and we are marking the anniversary with one of our most ambitious tree-planting projects ever.

In total, our four-year Centenary Woods project will see well over three million trees planted, including four flagship woods – one each in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. The trees planted with represent the millions of lives lost and affected by the war.

Northern Ireland's gem stretches by the banks of the River Faughan, right in the heart of the beautiful Faughan Valley.

Patrick Cregg, director of the Woodland Trust, explains: "As well as being a place for remembrance and quiet recreation, the new wood will link the neighbouring pockets of woodland – including ancient woodland – that dot the banks of the river. And, with ancient woodland covering a mere 0.08 per cent of the Northern Ireland landscape, every opportunity to protect and bolster this natural resource is truly precious."



We hope that everyone – from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – will play a part in creating this living, lasting legacy.

Find out more at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/faughan](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/faughan) And keep a look out for events at Brackfield, and elsewhere across the country, at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/events](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/events)

## CONTACT

Visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Email [northernireland@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:northernireland@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Telephone 028 9127 5787

The Woodland Trust, 1 Dufferin Court, Dufferin Avenue, Bangor, County Down, BT20 3BX