

To: WI Secretaries (CFWI)

August 2023

Dear WI Secretary:

WI Members Plant Trees
National Tree Week 25 November to 4 December 2023

You may have seen the recent email from WI Chair Helen Kestle about free trees for WIs, but in case you missed it, please can we ask you to add the following to your agenda for discussion at your next committee and next members meetings, to spread the message about this great offer from Forest for Cornwall! An article will appear in the October edition of the *County News*, but with a late October deadline we want to be sure of letting people know so they can act promptly, and hopefully identify a suitable site for planting a free tree.

WI Members Plant Trees!

Has your WI been making plans to plant trees? Forest for Cornwall (F4C) is pleased to be working with the [Cornwall Federation of WIs](#) to support your green ambitions and reduce the adverse effects of climate change with the planting of trees across Cornwall. More trees will benefit people and wildlife: they absorb traffic pollution and reduce noise; help to reduce flood water and soil erosion; provide shade in hot weather; they can provide food: and they improve mental and physical well being. With support from the Woodland Trust Emergency Tree Fund, Forest for Cornwall are making things much easier for you to 'get planting', by offering to deliver free trees, supports and protection to WIs who are able to identify a site to plant and maintain a tree in their local area.

National Tree Week takes place between Saturday 25 November and Sunday 4 December 2023, and is the perfect window for planting trees. And if every WI in Cornwall were to plant a tree that would be a total of 107 trees. And of course if some WIs were to plant two trees.....

A free tree (or two!) can be planted by a WI on its own land, in partnership with a community group, or even in a member's private front garden. All locations should either have public access or be visible to people passing by.

The young tree will be delivered to the agreed site, together with stakes and tree protection, for free! The tree will be about 1 to 1/2 metre in height, and you will be able to choose out of a list of seven native trees. Each WI would need to complete a request on the F4C website, telling them where the tree will be planted. WIs will take responsibility for watering and caring for the trees, guided by a check list from F4C - young trees do need very regular watering and maintenance, especially in times of drought and for at least the first three years.

If you're not sure about planting a tree at the end of November or in early December 2023, your members might like to do a 'Seed Search' of the autumn nuts so you can nurture your own tree(s) for planting the following year. Or if you have lots of space you can apply for larger numbers of free trees directly from the Woodland Trust. This is a hugely exciting initiative which gives all WIs the opportunity to help with reducing carbon emissions. The more trees the better for everyone!

Once you have identified a location and a WI member to be the lead, please sign up with Forest for Cornwall and plant a tree for National Tree Week! You can register at <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/wi-members-plant-trees>. The final deadline is 31 October 2023.

Forest for Cornwall is a scheme set up by Cornwall Council, and funded by Defra, Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust. See [Forest for Cornwall - Cornwall Council](#) for more details.

Many thanks,

Pippa Stilwell, WI Climate Ambassador, Zennor WI: cfwiclimate@gmail.com

Cathy Smith, Forest for Cornwall, Beaches and Cream WI:
cathy.smith@cornwall.gov.uk

