



Newsletter

TCV Tree Life Centre, Autumn 2013

Greetings Tree Lovers!

I've got lots of interesting Tree Life Centre stuff to advertise and promote so I thought that the best bet would be to present it to you in the form of a lovely newsletter.

If you don't know much about us then now is my chance to tell you: The Tree Life Centre is a community growing project, based in Kingswood, and working with volunteers from all sorts of backgrounds. The socially inclusive nature of the project is one of our real assets.

So we grow stuff... mainly trees, but also wildflowers, fruit and veg, and herbs. We like to sell our plants to people so that we can keep the project going and the volunteers happy! We also run horticulture qualifications. We'd love you to get involved with us and for you to support our work!

Volunteering opportunities

Monday to Wednesday Tree Life Centre - General Volunteering

Grimsbury Farm, Kingswood,
Bristol

We are gearing up for seed collecting season. So if you'd like to come and help us collect tree seed from the local area and then help them to begin the journey towards germination, then get in touch and get involved. There are lots of other interesting activities going on at our nursery as well. Come along for a 'Taster' Day!

**Contact: Ben Hall
Tel: 0117 9605447
tree-life-centre@tcv.org.uk**

Free Trees available!



First on the news agenda is to let you know about The Big Tree Plant. The Conservation Volunteers are working with Defra and the Forestry Commission, and are joining with Community Groups to establish community-led tree planting projects in areas that would benefit most - for example those with little greenery or tree cover. Between Oct 2012 and March 2015, we are aiming to plant 150,000 trees across England.

If you have an idea for planting trees on an area of land used by your local community then we should be able to help.

The trees have to be planted in streets or in green places that are open to all to visit, or where local people will benefit from them. Whoever owns the land must give permission and support to the project, and there must be a plan to care for the trees after they are planted.

We are able to provide you with free trees and the support and advice you will need to ensure your planting helps deliver the aims of The Big Tree Plant both on the planting day and into the future.

If you want more details then please get in touch with and I can talk to you in more depth about what the scheme involves and if your scheme fits into the eligibility criteria.

There is also **another free tree scheme** that we are working with a partner on. This one is specifically interested in supporting schools to grow more trees. We have planted mini-apple orchards, hedgerows and woodland areas in the past, so if you can put the word out and let me know if this would be of interest to anyone that would be great!

Horticulture Diplomas at TLC

We are able to provide accredited qualifications in practical and work based horticulture at the Tree Life Centre. We offer an entry level qualification, at level 1, and a more advanced qualification at level 2.

The qualifications are FREE for:

- People who are unemployed (and in receipt of qualifying benefits)
- People over 16 and under 19
- 19-23 year olds without a full Level 2 qualification
- Otherwise Course Fees of £280 apply.

The qualifications are all based at the Tree Life Centre and cover the development of a wide range of practical horticultural skills and knowledge. These include units in:

- Health and Safety
- Planting, establishment and maintenance of plants
- Pests and diseases
- Plant propagation
- Tool maintenance and use

The level 2 qualification runs on **Thursdays**. If you're interested in these courses or you know someone who might be then please get in touch and I'll be able to provide you with more details.



Apple Trees for Sale

So, there's just a little bit of space left for me to advertise our lovely apple trees for sale. We've got loads of different varieties to choose from, including local and heritage varieties.

The trees have all been grafted by our volunteers and have been given lots of love and care. They're handsome specimens, but don't take my word for it. Come and take a look yourself. We are always happy for people to come and look around the nursery, especially if you want to buy stuff from us! We can advise you and answer any questions you may have. The trees cost **£20** each, and we can give discounts for bulk buys. We have a few 'mystery trees' which are looking for a good home and can be taken away for a bargain price.

Reclaiming green spaces since 1959

The Conservation Volunteers is registered in England as a company limited by guarantee (976410) and as a charity in England (261009) and Scotland (SC039302)
Registered Office: Sedum House, Mallard Way, Doncaster DN4 8DB Recycled paper

Volunteering opportunities

Mondays at the Tree Life Centre: **Edible Plants Project**

We have been supported by South Glos Council to run a fruit and veg growing projects, specifically aimed at working with people who have learning difficulties. We'd love to have more people involved so get in touch if you want to know more!

Tuesdays at the Tree Life Centre: **The Wildflower Project**

All welcome. Join Caroline, our resident wildflower expert. You'll learn loads and help to propagate lots of interesting plants.

Wednesdays at Tree Life Centre: **Mental Health - Everybody's Business - Herb Garden Project**

Again supported by South Glos Council, we have a focus group for people with lived experience of mental health problems; they've been designing and building a really nice herb garden and have plans to propagate lots of herbs. If you want to get involved then you'd be really welcome. Get in touch to arrange a 'taster day'.

Cuttings

The new **TLC Volunteer cabin** is up and running and will be a cosy retreat during the frosty winter months to come. A big thanks to **Western Power Distribution** who helped to fund its construction.

There's also a great new **craft shelter** being built on site and we hope to run some interesting green woodwork workshops soon, so watch this space.....

Do you like weekends? Of course you do! Do you like Green things? Yes! Well you're going to **love** the **Big Green Weekend**. All the local TCV crew will be up at the Tree Life Centre on the **5th October**. Come along to a great open day, as we show off what we do and celebrate the work of our excellent volunteers!

