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 ***Platinum Jubilee Schools Information Sheet No 2***

***Where can we get some trees?***

**There are three main schemes providing free trees for schools. They are run by *The Conservation Volunteers* (TCV), the *Tree Council*, and the *Woodland Trust*.**

***The Conservation Volunteers* (TVC) scheme, called “*I DIG TREES”* is explained on their website;**

[**https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/i-dig-trees**](https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/i-dig-trees)

**The trees are available in packs of different species and mixes. The tree packs are predetermined with varieties that best suit a particular growing environment but all are recommended UK varieties. All packs come with the option of spiral guards (60cm x 50mm dia.) and supporting canes (90cm 12/14lbs) and are packaged in forestry co-extruded bags. The choices are explained on the website and the application form is easy to navigate and complete.**

**Another option currently available is the *Tree Council’s* scheme to provide free orchard and hedgerow trees for schools. The Tree Council website is excellent and well worth visiting for advice. More information about this scheme is available on their website;**

[**https://treecouncil.org.uk/schools-and-education/**](https://treecouncil.org.uk/schools-and-education/)

**Finally the *Woodland Trust* scheme is explained on their website;**

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

**They have a large scale operation to supply trees for schools, sending out trees twice a year, every March and November. Please note, however, that applications for the March delivery have now closed. Applications for the November 2022 delivery will open in a few weeks’ time. When the applications do open they have to be made online, at**[**www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees**](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees)**.**

**Lots of schools have found the Woodland Trust scheme very easy to use. Trees are available in packs of 15, 30, 105 or 420 saplings. Saplings are UK cell-grown stock, approx. 15-60cm tall and come with spiral guards and bamboo canes to help protect against small mammals.**

**Their comprehensive guide to 31 native tree species includes soil preferences, average height, unique qualities, etc and can be downloaded to help decide which species are best suited to local conditions:**[**https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1168/twigged.pdf**](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1168/twigged.pdf)**.**

**For the free tree scheme the Trust puts together some species mixes that will work well together and groups them by quantity and theme to make the choice a little easier. Unfortunately they cannot tailor the contents of the individual packs, but it is possible to select up to 4 packs from the 30 or 105 sapling range.**

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**If you would prefer to buy your own trees rather than use these schemes then Information Sheet 3 explains who you can approach for grant aid. Information Sheet 4 lists the garden centres and nurseries which can supply suitable trees and hedging plants.**

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**Oxfordshire Lieutenancy January 2022**

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