

National Hedgerow Week 2022

A resource pack for partners



**NATIONAL
HEDGEROW
WEEK 2022**
Brought to you by The Tree Council & Partners

nationalhedgerowweek.org.uk

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National Hedgerow Week



The second-ever **#NationalHedgerowWeek**, brought to you by The Tree Council and partners, calls on people to recognise, celebrate and protect the humble hedgerow – a vital habitat for our much-loved native wildlife including over 2000 species and 80% of our woodland birds. A handsome hero and often found close to home, hedgerows improve our health, happiness and sense of heritage.

So this year, we are celebrating these marvels of nature with our **#HomeSweetHedge** theme.

In this pack, you'll find everything you need to spread the word about hedges as habitats for wildlife and the extraordinary qualities they bring to our human homes.

Hedgerows need our help!

Since World War II, we've lost 50% of our hedgerows in the UK, with 118,000 miles disappearing since 1950 alone. To make matters worse, 60% of the hedgerows we've been left with are in poor shape. By getting involved in National Hedgerow Week, you can help us to raise awareness of just how important our hedgerow havens are. With your support, we can work together to preserve, extend and protect our precious hedgerow habitats.

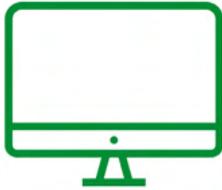


Hedge Talks

Register online now for our free Hedgerow Happy Hour online talks – and share the details with your networks too!

- **Monday 10 Oct, 7pm: Hedge Makers: planting & nurturing the healthy hedgerows of the future** with Ian Turner, Head of Major Planting Projects at The Tree Council, and Jackie Shallcross, Shared Outcomes Fund Project Lead at The Tree Council
- **Tuesday 11 Oct, 7pm: Heavenly Hedges: foraging for fantastic food and tasty tipples** with David Winnard, forager, naturalist and founder of Discover the Wild
- **Wednesday 12 Oct, 7pm: The Cycle of Life: managing hedgerows, the UK's green veins** with Nigel Adams, Vice Chairman of the National Hedgelaying Society and founder of Nigel Adams Countryside Management
- **Thursday 13 Oct, 2pm: Become Hedgerow Detectives! Using hedgerows for curriculum learning & exploring for children** with Emma Marrington, Rural Communities Enhancement Lead at CPRE, the countryside charity, Harry Munt, Young Tree Champion Ambassador at The Tree Council, and Katie Rafferty, National Schools Programme Officer at The Tree Council
- **Thursday 13 Oct, 6pm: Bedtime Story for Little Hedge Lovers**, with Elena Mannion, author of 'The Happy Hedgerow' and 'Old Oak and Little Acorn'
- **Thursday 13 Oct, 7pm: Easy Treesy Beginners Guide to Trees, Shrubs & Climbers in Hedgerows** with Jon Stokes, Director of Trees, Science & Research at The Tree Council
- **Friday 14 Oct, 7pm: Feathers and Fur - hedgerows as homes for dormice and birds** with Ian White, Dormouse Officer at People's Trust for Endangered Species, and Lucy Lapwing, Naturalist, Conservationist & Influencer





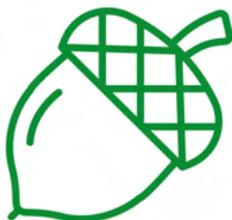
Discover the magic of hedgerows: Sign up and share our free online [Hedge Talks 2022 series!](#)



Demand change: Encourage your networks to support CPRE, the countryside charity's [#40by50 petition](#) and call on the Government to commit to extending the UK's hedgerow network.



Plant a hedgerow: Most of our hedges are in the countryside, planted and looked after by farmers. However, anybody with a few metres along a fence or wall at home, in school grounds, work premises or community space can plant a carbon guzzling new hedge (with permission from the land owner) to make their own space green and beautiful whilst creating a home for wildlife. Hedgerows made up of mixed native species work best. Our [planting guidance](#) and opportunities for [grants](#) for community spaces and schools can help get projects started.



Grow a hedgerow from seed: It might take a bit longer but it's so satisfying! With a bit of 'know how', it's easy for people to gather seeds in their local area. They can plant them to grow into baby trees that can later be transplanted to form a hedgerow – it only needs a small space like a balcony or patio to get started. Share our [Seed Gathering Guidance](#) including the new [Tree Growers Guide](#) to help.



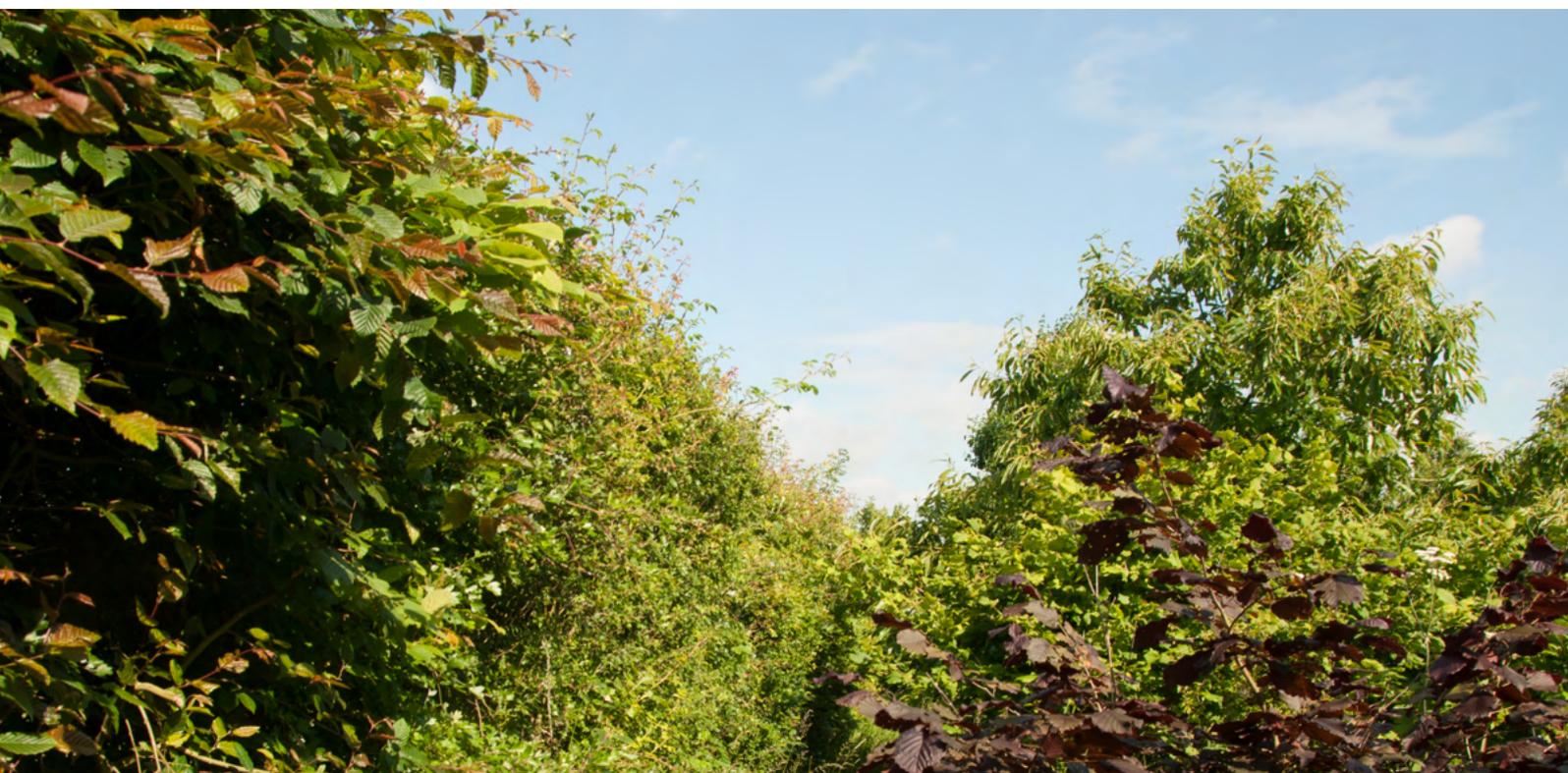
Put down the clippers: Help us spread the word about good hedgerow practice. There's no need to put lots of work into keeping hedges clipped super neat and tight (unless needed for highway visibility or access safety). Hedges allowed to blossom and fruit by cutting less, often give maximum food for birds, insects and mammals. A well-managed hedge will provide a bountiful harvest each autumn, with fruits like crab apples, sloes, and blackberries. See our top-10-tips for a healthy hedge [here](#).



Pledge a Hedge: Not all of us are able to plant a hedge of our own - but The Tree Council can help. [Donating](#) just £15 to The Tree Council will help plant, protect, and care for 1 metre of fantastic hedgerow



Get snapping: Help promote BBC Springwatch TV presenter Chris Packham's '[Hedgerow of the Year](#)' competition going live on 10 October. He is asking members of the public to get snapping and send in their submissions – the winners will be revealed autumn 2023.



Your #NationalHedgerowWeek checklist



- Download the National Hedgerow Week 2022 [logo](#).
- Share the magic of #NationalHedgerowWeek with our [social media assets](#) and our hedgerow facts.
- Use our [hedgerow images](#) to promote your own happy hedgerow messages.
- Register for our free online [Hedge Talks](#).
- Watch out for Chris Packham's Hedgerow of the Year Competition launching during National Hedgerow Week.



Social media

Support National Hedgerow Week by letting all your friends and supporters know about the campaign using the hashtags #NationalHedgerowWeek and #HomeSweetHedge. And don't forget to point them in the direction of our website at nationalhedgerowweek.org.uk.

Please tag our National Hedgerow Week partners where possible – we've provided their Twitter handles below.

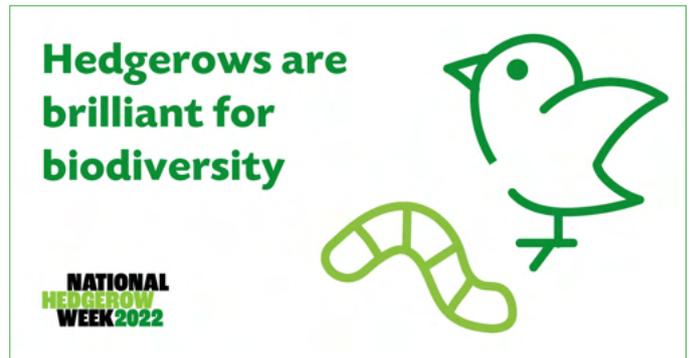
- @thetreecouncil
- @Hedgelinek
- @FWAGAssoc
- @CPRE
- @ptes
- @TRPGuild7
- @GardenLiveryCo
- @DefraGovUK
- @HeritageFundUK
- @Hedgelinek_UK

On the following pages, we've included some example social media copy and hedgerow facts to get you started, and some images you can use on your channels too.

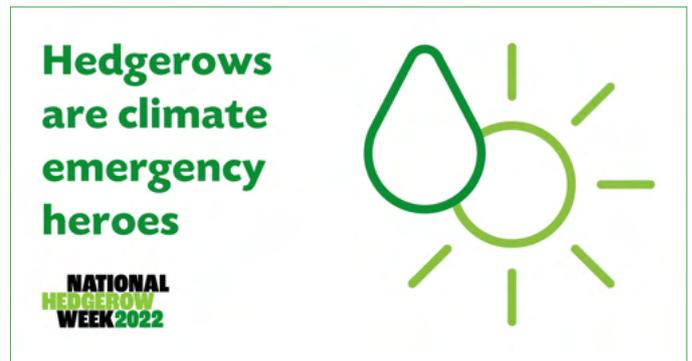


Suggested wording

- Who lives in your hedge? The humble hedge is home to all sorts of different wildlife. Our friends @TheTreeCouncil can shed some light on these amazing green dwellings.
nationalhedgerowweek.org.uk
#NationalHedgerowWeek
- Hedgerows are the UK's largest priority habitat, providing a home for more than 2,000 species, including 80% of our woodland birds, hedgehogs, most species of bat, the great-crested newt, dormice, and more!
- Happy National Hedgerow Week! The humble hedge is home to over 2000 different wildlife species, and they do an amazing job of absorbing carbon. Head over to @TheTreeCouncil to learn more visit
nationalhedgerowweek.org.uk
#HomeSweetHedge
#NationalHedgerowWeek
- We're celebrating #NationalHedgerowWeek with our friends at the @TheTreeCouncil. Hedges are home to over 2000 wildlife species - find out all about it here
nationalhedgerowweek.org.uk
#HomeSweetHedge
- Let it grow, let it groooooow. To learn how to look after your hedge so that it can be a home for wildlife, visit
nationalhedgerowweek.org.uk
#NationalHedgerowWeek
- Kate isn't the only sort of bush that's running up hills! Hedges run all over our country, and they're amazing at tackling carbon and providing homes for wildlife. Check out @TheTreeCouncil to learn more
#NationalHedgerowWeek



- Hedgerows are so efficient at guzzling carbon that the independent Climate Change Committee recommends we plant 40% more hedgerows -200,000km by 2050. You can help by signing @CPRE's #40by50 petition now #NationalHedgerowWeek [https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/85848/petition/1?](https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/85848/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=cpre-web)
[ea.tracking.id=cpre-web](https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/85848/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=cpre-web)
- Our hedgerows are under threat. With more than 50% lost since WWII and 60% of those that remain in poor condition, we need to plant more and manage them better! Thankfully there's grants that can help you plant in your community
#NationalHedgerowWeek <https://hedgelink.org.uk/grants-funding>
- Hedgerows make our towns and cities a better place to live. They bring down high temperatures by releasing water vapour through transpiration and providing shade, and they also improve air quality by absorbing harmful pollutants at street level
#NationalHedgerowWeek
#HomeSweetHedge



Hedgerow facts

These fascinating facts can help your supporters understand just how important our hedgerows are:

- Hedgerows are often overlooked, but they're **immensely important for biodiversity**, connecting habitats, protecting against pollution and fighting climate change.
- Hedgerows are the UK's **largest priority habitat**, providing a home for more than 2,000 species, including 80% of our woodland birds, hedgehogs, most species of bat, the great crested newt, dormice and butterflies.
- Hedges **cool our environments**, both urban and rural. As well as providing shade and cooling the areas directly around them by releasing water vapour through transpiration, hedgerow trees help provide the conditions for clouds to form, delivering rain and reflecting the sun's rays away from the earth's surface.
- Hedges are **brilliant at capturing carbon**. 2.5km of hedgerow can capture 131 tonnes of carbon every year, the same amount produced by a whopping 20 car journeys around the world! In fact, they're so efficient at guzzling carbon that the Independent Climate Change Committee recommends we plant 40% more hedgerows (200,000km) by 2050.
- Due to their presence at the level of pedestrians, hedgerows are **natural barriers to harmful air pollution** in our streets.
- Hedgerows have huge **historical and cultural significance**. When Bronze Age farmers cleared woodland to make fields, they left strips of woodland to mark borders. Many of these hedges survive today on parish boundaries. The Romans planted many new hedges and in the 18th century, the Enclosures Act prompted even more hedges to spring up.
- Hedgerows are **under threat**. More than 50% have been lost since World War II, and those that remain are often mismanaged or at risk. Up to 60% are in poor condition.



Our Home Sweet Hedge theme



The Tree Council

To celebrate hedgerows' vital role as wildlife homes, The Tree Council has commissioned illustrator Erin Brown to create beautiful drawings showing the variety of wildlife 'accommodation' hedgerows provide. From a *high-rise* hedgerow of hazel and field maple with *multiple bedrooms* for a family of song-thrushes; to a *countryside estate* hedgerow for wood mice, beetles and hedgehogs needing a *sheltered ground floor room*. There's space in a *large rural village* hedge of hawthorn, oak and bramble to comfortably house moths, dormice and greenfinches. Ideal for *senior renters* looking for somewhere quiet to hibernate!

We'd love partners to share and enjoy Erin's beautiful drawings or come up with your own ways to highlight hedgerows as homes for wildlife, not to mention the beauty and greenery they bring to our own human living spaces.

Front and back cover illustrations © Erin Brown



Talk to the Hedge programme



Protecting the UK's hedgerows

'Talk to the Hedge' is a three-year programme to benefit biodiversity, climate change and the green economy by increasing the quality and quantity of rural and urban hedgerows in England. The programme is led by The Tree Council working in partnership with Farmers and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), National Hedgelaying Society (NHLS) and Another Way.

Talk to the Hedge is funded by the Trees Call to Action Fund. The fund was developed by Defra in partnership with the Forestry Commission and is being delivered by the Heritage Fund.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Heritage
Fund



Forestry Commission



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Front and back cover illustrations © Erin Brown

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The Tree Council is a registered charity, number 279000.