



Newsletter

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North Northamptonshire Council Tree Planting Update:

- North Northamptonshire Council received funding for community tree planting events from the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#). Thanks to this, community groups have planted 3728 trees this planting season.
- [21 new Community Orchards](#) with a total of 786 have been planted throughout North Northamptonshire, thanks to funding from the Coronation Living Heritage Fund.
- A new [Micro Wood](#) has been planted in Wellingborough following Miyawaki Methods and contains 760 trees.
- Other tree planting projects have been ongoing throughout our Country Parks and over 1000 standard trees have been planted thanks to the [Local Authorities Treescapes Fund](#).
- Tree Wardens were given the opportunity to join us for some training courses within our Country Parks. Many of you joined us for the Basic Tree Survey and Inspection Courses and the Basic Tree ID Course.
- We now have our own tree bank containing over 6000 trees to be used for future tree planting projects. There are also plans in place to set up our own Tree Nursery where local seeds will be collected and grown on.



500 trees planted as a new hedgerow in Kettering. Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Tree Council Update:

- The Tree Council have welcomed their newest team member: Charlie Knowles, who has recently started as the Tree Warden Scheme Volunteer Engagement Officer. Charlie will be working alongside Sam Village to support our network.
- The Tree Council are in the process of planning and organising their series of Regional Tree Warden Forums for 2025-26. Details will be shared once confirmed.
- If you haven't done so already, please sign up to the Tree Councils E-Newsletter via this link: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/>

Looking to the Future

- Branching Out Fund reopening soon ([Branching Out Fund - The Tree Council](#))
- Woodland Trust Free Trees scheme open now ([Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust](#))
- Please let me know if you have any suggestions for tree planting locations, community groups or schools that may want to get involved and private landowners who may wish to plant trees on their land.



Wellingborough Eco Group and 70 school students helped to plant the new Micro Wood in Castlefield's Park, Wellingborough



Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

- ♣ In March, North Northamptonshire launched the region's first nature recovery strategy: [Local Nature Recovery Strategy | North Northamptonshire Council](#)
- ♣ Through collaboration, it is intended that this strategy will help guide all in North Northamptonshire on ways to support nature recovery
- ♣ The strategy will be used as a foundation for applying for funding.

Rural Community Capital Funding:

- ♣ Rural Community Capital Funding 2025-26 grants are now open for applications.
- ♣ There is £80,000 available for Rural communities and organisations can apply for grants up to £10,000.
- ♣ Please see the following link for full details of the criteria and online application form: [Rural community capital funding | North Northamptonshire Council](#)
- ♣ The closing is 23rd June with outcomes expected by the end of August.

Tree Warden Spotlight: Martin Toms, Kettering

Martin Toms, a Tree Warden for Kettering has given us an insight into some of the work he has been involved in over the last few years:

I have been involved with tree planting for about 15 years now and this was well before I became a tree warden. I run a local wildlife group called Natural-Ise and recently I have been involved in various tree planting and watering events, some with the group and some with schools etc.

In January 2024 we planted 110 trees that we bought from funding comprising a large variety of native trees on a field by the River Ise by Deeble Road. We have since watered these trees twice and all of these events generated a large number of volunteers. The trees are looking very healthy and so far we have lost less than 10% of them. Further trees have been added to an area right by these and they are looking healthy too. A local person grew on some oak trees from acorns and we added these in later with a group of children with behavioural problems. Around March 2024 I was privileged to help Hannah Dunstan of NNC with a tiny forest of 750 trees by the skate park on Ise Lodge as well as some trees near the river. This Tiny Forest is looking very healthy. Around the same time Natural-Ise planted a number of hazel trees in the Wicksteed arboretum as a hedge. In December 2024 I helped KSA school to plant a number of trees in their grounds, helping to organise the students. In December 2024 I was very happy to organise a tree planting with Hannah and a local resident who had been desperate for more trees in her area of Highfield Road Kettering. This comprised of around 150m of hedging and 50 stand alone trees. Unfortunately, the stand alone trees have been vandalised, but the hedge is still doing well. In February 2025, after months of raising funds and organising, I met up with staff, parents and pupils at Brambleside School, Kettering to plant a spikey perimeter hedge and about 50 stand alone trees in school grounds. A pupil had sadly died there and as he loved orange, I have been a part of an orange themed garden in his memory. In March this year I was told about some hornbeam trees that a lady had grown on and went over to little Harrowden and dug them up. Two of us then planted these in the field by Deeble Road, with the others. We have more ahead, with NNC planning 1,000 trees for 2026.



Photos of some of
Martin's Projects:

