



Charter
for Trees, Woods
and People



**COMMON
GROUND**



HOW TO USE THE DRESS UP PACK

GET TOGETHER WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND COLLEAGUES TO CELEBRATE AND SAY 'THANKS' TO THE TREES IN YOUR LIVES. ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE CHARTER FOR TREES, WOODS AND PEOPLE TO HELP ENSURE TREES AND PEOPLE CAN STAND STRONGER TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE.

1. CHOOSE A TREE

It could be a gnarly old tree that has spanned generations, a young tree planted recently to mark a special event, or simply a tree that everyone in your community knows and loves – a landmark, a meeting place, somewhere to shelter through the seasons.

2. PLAN YOUR EVENT

Dressing a tree can be the focus of an event that celebrates your community's values, interests and history. You could serve hot drinks and local food, invite local musicians to play music inspired by the tree, or gather up some tree poems written by local poets and read them aloud. The ideas and activities in this pack are a starting point for you to organise and spread the word about your community.

3. CELEBRATE & SAY THANK YOU

Have fun celebrating! And use the leaves in this pack to write messages or poems which say 'thank you' to any of the special trees in your life. Hang these messages around the tree you are celebrating, and when your Tree Dressing Day is over gather all the leaves up and send them to the Woodland Trust so that these messages from your community can help to build the Charter for Trees, Woods and People.



Charter
for Trees, Woods
and People



THE STORY OF TREE DRESSING

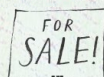
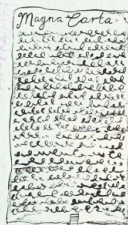
Tree Dressing Day falls on the first weekend of December. It was initiated by Common Ground in 1990 and has grown to become much more than an expression of a love for trees. It is a chance for the whole community to gather and celebrate the leafy friends we all have in common. It's also a chance for communities to reflect on the social and cultural history of their local area, and the role trees have played in shaping this story.

Trees have long been celebrated for their spiritual significance. The simplicity of tying strips of cloth or yarn to a tree is universal and timeless. The old Celtic custom of tying cloth dipped in water from a holy well to a 'clootie tree' echoes the practice in Japan of decorating trees with strips of white paper, or *tanzaku*, bearing wishes and poems. The twenty-first century trend of 'yarn bombing' in Europe and North America transforms the local landscape with bright fabrics and yarns, like the Buddhist tradition of tying ribbons around the trunk of the Bodhi tree in homage to Buddha, or the annual Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan when coloured strings are tied onto trees and plants to call upon the power of nature to protect loved ones.

We risk losing trees from our lives and landscapes unless we express just how important they are and how much we appreciate them. That's why the Woodland Trust launched their campaign to create a Charter for Trees, Woods and People, which joins over fifty organisations and hundreds of local communities in a national movement for trees, speaking out for them and ensuring that their value in society is recognised and protected for the future.

Tree dressing is a powerful way of expressing our relationship with trees. Organising a Tree Dressing Day in your community is a wonderful way of saying 'thank you' to the trees where you live. It is also the ideal moment to share tree stories with friends, neighbours and colleagues — and by collecting these stories from your workplace, school or neighbourhood and sending them back to The Woodland Trust, you will ensure that your community's voice is added to the new Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

When published on 6 November 2017 this peoples' charter will begin to influence government policy and inspire professional practice, ensuring that trees and people stand stronger together. This year, join the many thousands of people across the UK who celebrate Tree Dressing Day and make sure your community's voice is heard by saying thank you to the trees in your neighbourhood.



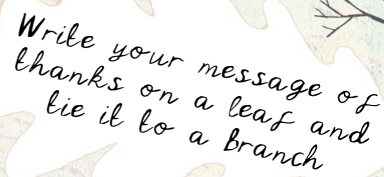
**COMMON
GROUND**



**WOODLAND
TRUST**



Say thanks to the trees in your life




Write your message of thanks on a leaf and tie it to a branch



Share a tree story

"I have an oak in my garden which my aunt started growing in an egg cup over 39 years ago. She gave it to my mum who grew it in a pot, then gave it to us, and the pots just got bigger and bigger. We decided to give it room to stretch its roots and planted it in the garden - it's now over eight feet tall. I love it! I'm so proud of my own little oak tree." Eileen Cooper



"Back in the 1960s, Mum bought a Bramley tree from Woolworths and planted it in her small back garden. Every autumn, just as school was beginning its new term, we would harvest the apples which were used to make blackberry and apple jam and apple fritters - I can still taste them now. Our best harvest was 88lbs. After many years of joyous picking, in 1987 the famous hurricane arrived and tore our beautiful tree from the ground. I felt sad, losing such an old friend, but it has left wonderful memories of childhood which live on." Vivien Tavener

Sing a tree song

"A wassail, a wassail through old Cowick town
Our cherries dark red and the bark so dark brown
But if it's cyder you're wanting then go take your fill
Of the famous Royal Wilding that grows on Red Hill"

From "The City Trees" by Jim Causley

Write a tree poem

"This is the place where Dorothea smiled.
I did not know the reason, nor did she.
But there she stood, and turned, and smiled at me:
A sudden glory had bewitched the child.
The corn at harvest, and a single tree.
This is the place where Dorothea smiled."

"The Elm" by Hilaire Belloc



Self portrait

TREE HANGINGS

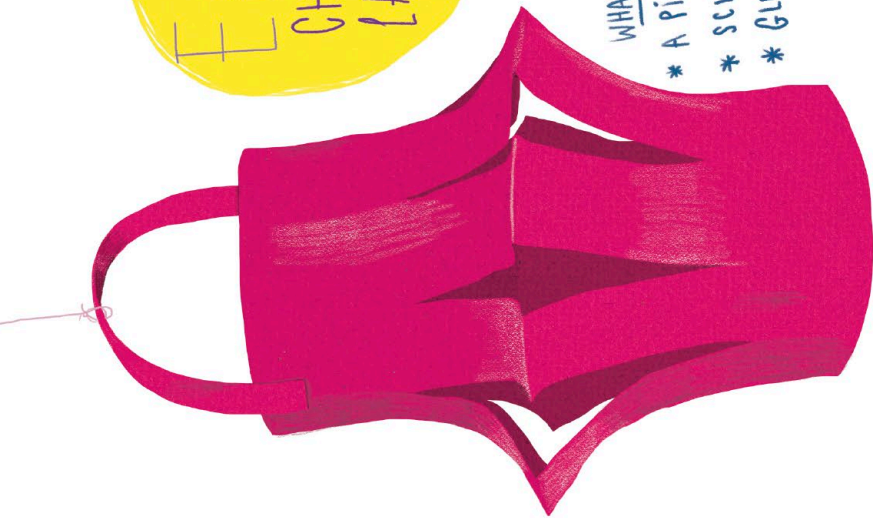


What You'll need

CARD / GOUACHE / STRING
PAINT

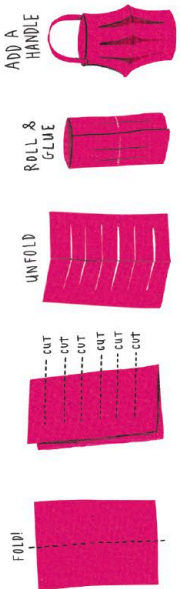
1. TRACE AROUND A LEAF ONTO SOME CARD
2. PAINT A SELF PORTRAIT ON ONE SIDE
3. PAINT YOUR NAME ON THE OTHER
4. HANG WITH A PIECE OF STRING

EASY CHINESE LANTERNS

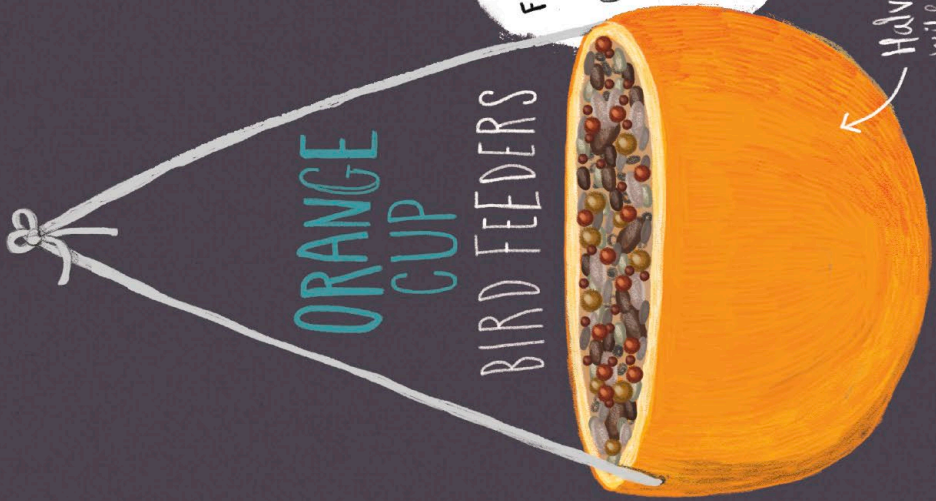


WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- * A piece of CARD
- * SCISSORS
- * GLUE * STRING



ORANGE CUP BIRD FEEDERS



FOR THE FILLING
Cut some Card into cubes (you can also use Peanut Butter) and mix with some birdseed.

Halved orange with flesh removed



Send us your leaves!

HELP SHAPE THE CHARTER BY
**SENDING YOUR
LEAVES BACK!**



Charter
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and People

*Tell us about your
Tree Dressing Day*

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EMAIL

ADDRESS

WHERE WAS YOUR EVENT?

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAME?

ORGANISER'S NAME?

TELL US ABOUT YOUR DAY AND YOUR TREE

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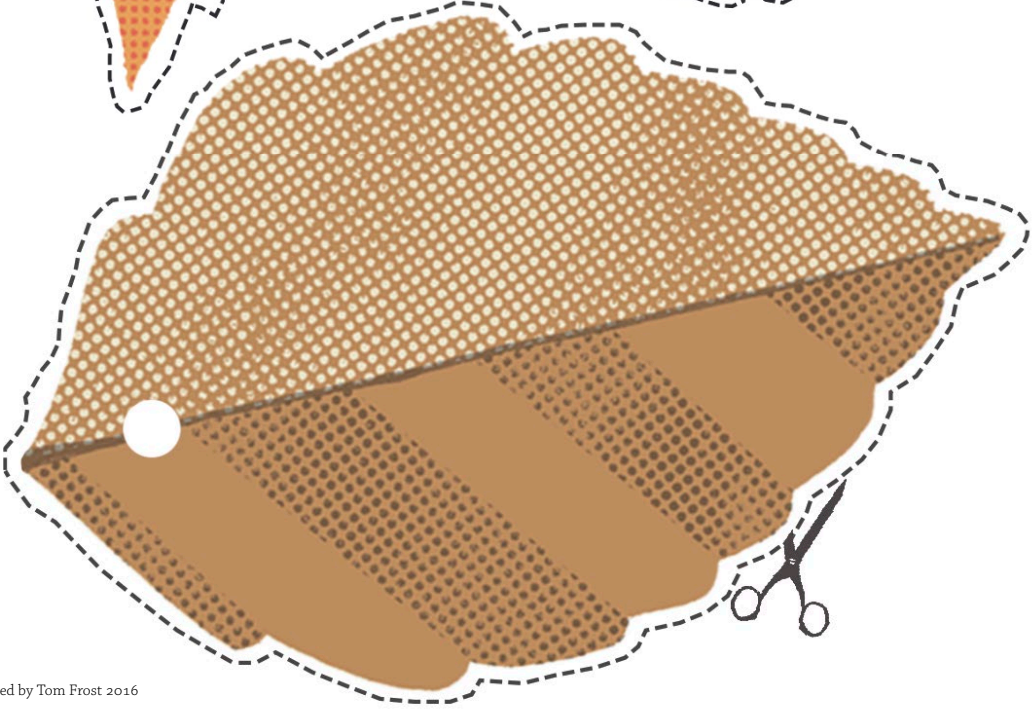
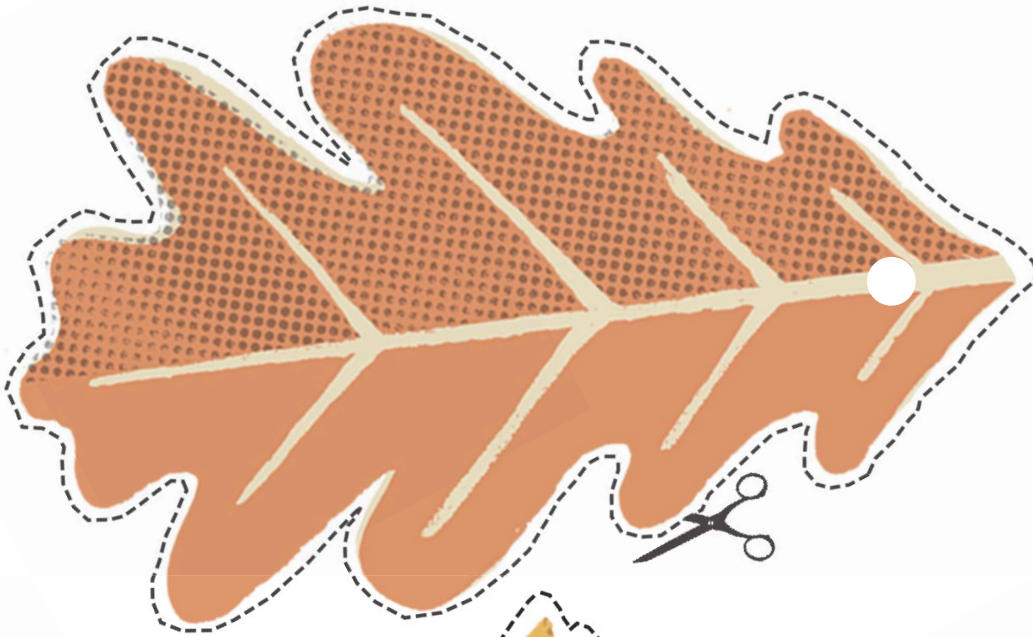
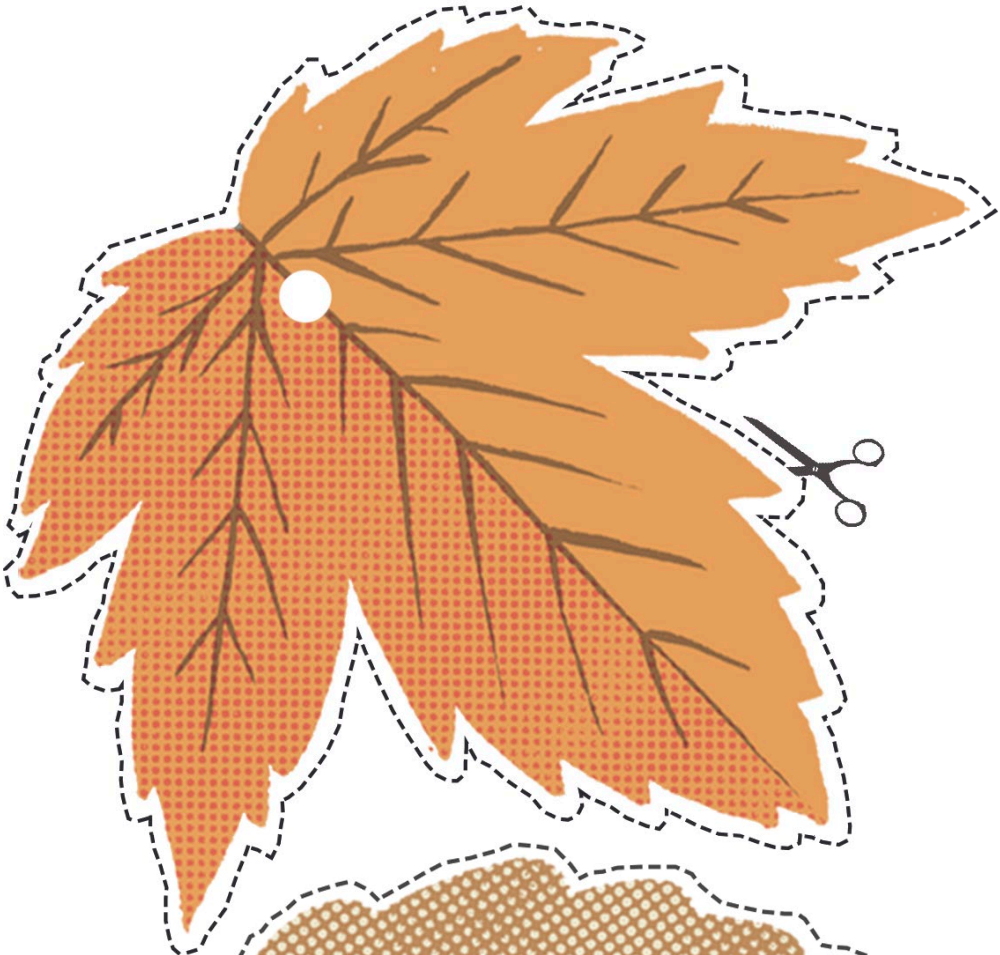
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DISCOVER THE CHARTER ONLINE

treecharter.uk/add-your-voice
champions@treecharter.uk

Send your
leaves back to:
Tree Charter Team
The Woodland Trust
Kempton Way
Grantham
Lincolnshire
NG31 6LL

We'd love to keep you up to date with the charter campaign. By providing your e-mail address you confirm you are happy to receive updates by e-mail. We will not pass on your details to any third party.



The background of the entire image is a photograph of a tree with many thin, dark branches. From these branches, numerous long, thin streamers of various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) hang down, creating a festive, garland-like effect. The background is a solid, deep blue. At the bottom of the image, there is a horizontal band of white material with a pattern of small, dark, square holes, resembling a decorative border or a piece of fabric.

Tree Dressing Day

When?

Where?

What to Bring:

December 2016