

Blackpool Council

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## Brimmon Oak voted runner-up in European Tree of the Year

The Woodland Trust's Welsh entry in the European Tree of the Year, the Brimmon Oak has finished in 2nd place, the Trust's best ever finish! The tree was only 1,394 votes behind the winner, 'Oak Jozef', the Polish entry.

The results were revealed towards the end of last month at the awards ceremony in Brussels. To mark the announcement the Woodland Trust are also launching a renewed call for better protection for our 'ancients' (trees and woods).

## It's Time to Stand up for Trees



Welcome to the April edition of our Carbon Capture newsletter, this month we take a closer look at bluebells and the European Tree of the Year announcements.

So spring has well and truly sprung, as the harshness of the winter chill begins to dissipate, the change in weather ushers in

the arrival of this year's bluebells and baby animals along with the excitement of young nature detectives and Easter egg hunters.

Spring is a time of hope and optimism, to the soundtrack of birdsong we look forward to our plans for the year ahead, like trees they begin as small as acorns only to grow into grand oaks. It's in this time however, that our trees need us more than ever, take for example Cefn Coch.

Cefn Coch in Wales is neglected, ecologically it is degraded. The Woodland Trust have set out to buy the land with the simple plan of natural regeneration, to eventually create an amazing place where wildlife can roam and thrive. It's through our (and many others') continued support of the Woodland Trust that they are able to undertake such ambitious and innovative projects like this; restoring our beautiful landscape and giving hope and optimism for a brighter, greener future.

The Woodland Trust's 'save our ancients' campaign follows Government proposals in the recent housing white paper to add ancient woodland and aged and veteran trees to the current list of policies that restrict development in England.

We hope that you continue to support us as we make a stand for trees with the Woodland Trust, capturing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our paper purchases.

For more information about the

## 4 Facts about Bluebells

Spring is here and it's time to go bluebell spotting. Get to know them better with the Woodland Trust's top bluebell facts.

### What are native bluebells?

Native bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are bulbous plants from the Asparagaceae family. They spend most of the year as bulbs underground in deciduous woodlands, emerging to leaf and then flower in April and May.

### Where do bluebells grow?

They are native to western Europe. The UK is a species stronghold with over half the world's population growing here. Bluebells are often used in combination with other species as an indicator of ancient woodland.

### Are bluebells protected?

Bluebells are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It prohibits anyone from digging up bulbs in the countryside and landowners from removing bluebells from their land for sale. The species was also listed on Schedule 8 of the Act in 1998 which makes trade in wild bluebell bulbs or seeds an offence.

### Are bluebells poisonous?

All parts of the bluebell plant contain toxic glycosides that are poisonous to humans and animals including dogs, horses and cattle.

If you've spotted bluebells already be sure to log them at [www.woodlandtrust.org](http://www.woodlandtrust.org) and join in the Big Bluebell Watch!