



WOODGREEN CALENDAR 2022

A celebration of our local trees



January

Sat	1	New Year's Day	●
Sun	2		
Mon	3	Holiday	
Tue	4	Holiday (Scotland only)	
Wed	5		
Thu	6		
Fri	7		
Sat	8		●
Sun	9		
Mon	10		
Tue	11		
Wed	12		
Thu	13		
Fri	14		
Sat	15		
Sun	16		
Mon	17		○
Tue	18		
Wed	19		
Thu	20		
Fri	21		
Sat	22		
Sun	23		
Mon	24		
Tue	25	Burns Night	●
Wed	26		
Thu	27		
Fri	28		
Sat	29		
Sun	30		
Mon	31		

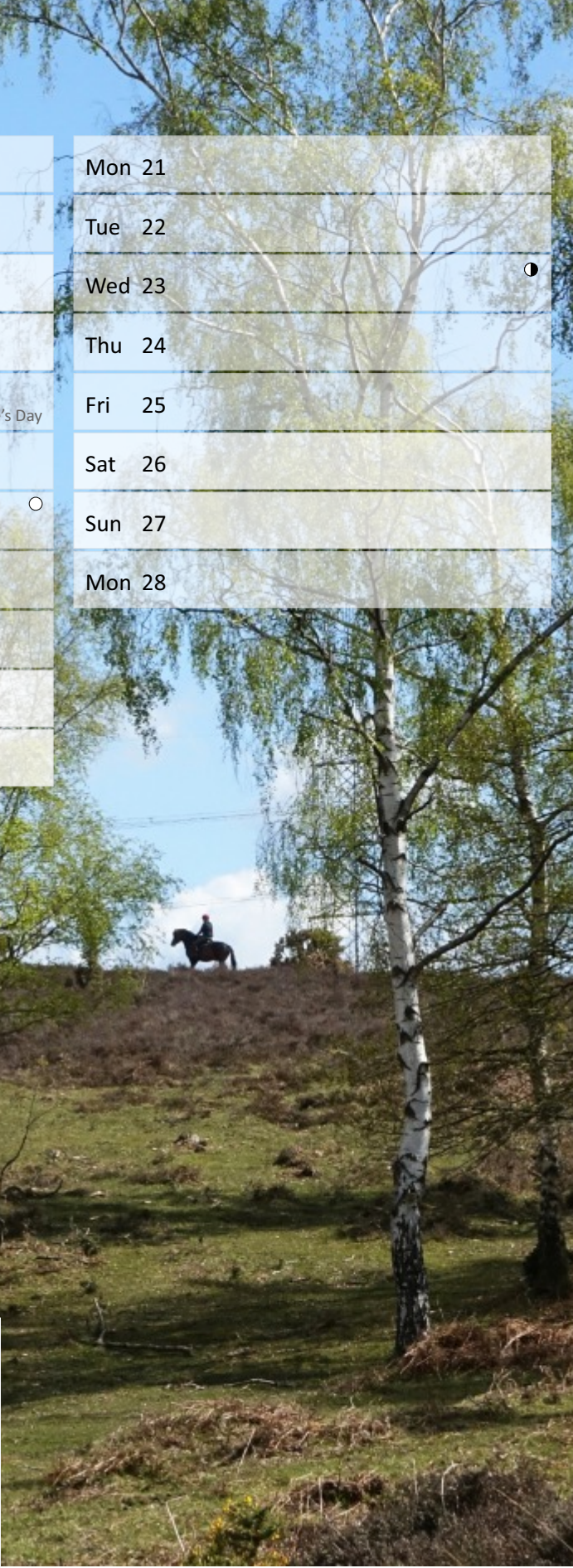


St Mary's Yew

The yew outside St Mary's Church in Breamore is at least 1000 years old (it is difficult to accurately age yew trees because they become hollow with age). The tree has a girth of about 12 metres although this consists of a circle of new growth rising from the shell of the original trunk. This ability of seemingly dead yew trees to regenerate has meant that they have been a symbol of death and rebirth for thousands of years. The presence of yew trees in churchyards is also beneficial in encouraging commoners to keep their grazing cattle away and maintain all adjoining fencing, hedges and walls. All parts of a yew tree are poisonous including the berries, needles and bark. At St Mary's, about 40 younger yews grow around the perimeter of the churchyard.

February

	Thu 10	Mon 21
	Fri 11	Tue 22
Tue 1	Sat 12	Wed 23
Wed 2	Sun 13	Thu 24
Thu 3	Mon 14Valentine's Day	Fri 25
Fri 4	Tue 15	Sat 26
Sat 5	Wed 16	Sun 27
Sun 6	Thu 17	Mon 28
Mon 7	Fri 18	
Tue 8	Sat 19	
Wed 9	Sun 20	



Millersford and Turf Hill
Millersford Plantation and Turf Hill Inclosure are mature conifer plantations, mainly of Scots Pine and Spruce, at the southern end of Hale Purlieu. The Forestry Commission are clearing the plantations as part of a long-term habitat restoration plan.

In 1950, Hale Purlieu was given to the National Trust and it then leased Millersford to the Forestry Commission. The national policy at the time was to convert broad-leaf woods into conifer plantations to quickly replenish timber stocks depleted as a result of the First and Second World Wars.

The on-going restoration plan involves the felling of the plantation conifers, stump removal, levelling of the ground, and restoration of water courses to create a natural, open Forest habitat. The remnants of the older, native woodland at the western end (Millersford Copse) are also being sympathetically restored.

March

Tue	1	St David's Day Shrove Tuesday
Wed	2	Ash Wednesday
Thu	3	
Fri	4	
Sat	5	
Sun	6	
Mon	7	
Tue	8	
Wed	9	
Thu	10	
Fri	11	
Sat	12	
Sun	13	
Mon	14	
Tue	15	
Wed	16	
Thu	17	St Patrick's Day (Holiday (NI))
Fri	18	
Sat	19	
Sun	20	Spring Equinox
Mon	21	
Tue	22	
Wed	23	
Thu	24	
Fri	25	
Sat	26	
Sun	27	Mother's Day British Summer Time begins
Mon	28	
Tue	29	
Wed	30	
Thu	31	



Blackthorn

Blackthorn bursts into blossom in early spring, producing clouds of snow-white flowers on bare branches. The leaves follow on a few weeks later. Blackthorn blossom is one of the first signs that winter is losing its grip. Mature trees can grow to a height of around 6–7m and live for up to 100 years. They are densely branched, and equipped with vicious spines. With its early flowering, blackthorn provides a valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees in spring. Its name is derived from the colour of its bark. The wood is extremely tough and was used for making walking sticks. Blackthorn is best known for its fruits or sloes (centre), which are used to make wine, preserves and sloe gin.

April

Fri	1	●
Sat	2	
Sun	3	
Mon	4	
Tue	5	
Wed	6	
Thu	7	
Fri	8	
Sat	9	●

April Fool's Day

Sun	10	Palm Sunday
Mon	11	
Tue	12	
Wed	13	
Thu	14	Maundy Thursday
Fri	15	Good Friday
Sat	16	○
Sun	17	Easter Sunday
Mon	18	Easter Monday
Tue	19	
Wed	20	

Thu	21	
Fri	22	
Sat	23	●
Sun	24	
Mon	25	St George's Day
Tue	26	
Wed	27	
Thu	28	
Fri	29	
Sat	30	●



Merry Cherry

Woodgreen was renowned for its soft fruit, orchards and its 'Merries'. These were a species of black cherry and, at harvest time, people came from miles around to eat their fill in Merry Fairs. Ropes, with tin cans attached, were stretched across the trees and houses throughout the village to protect the ripening fruit. Anyone passing by would shake the ropes to scare away any scavenging birds. The trees seem to have mostly died out by the 1960s. A few remnants remain, including the young tree in the front garden of Merry Tree Cottage on Brook Lane.

May

		Tue 10		Sat 21	
		Wed 11		Sun 22	☾
Sun 1		Thu 12		Mon 23	
Mon 2	Early May Bank Holiday	Fri 13		Tue 24	
Tue 3		Sat 14		Wed 25	
Wed 4		Sun 15	☉	Thu 26	
Thu 5		Mon 16		Fri 27	
Fri 6		Tue 17		Sat 28	
Sat 7		Wed 18		Sun 29	
Sun 8		Thu 19		Mon 30	☀
Mon 9	☾	Fri 20		Tue 31	



Hawthorn

‘Ne’er cast a clout ‘til May be out” is an old proverb dating back to at least the 16th century. It means that you shouldn’t put your winter wardrobe away until hawthorn is in flower. Hawthorn was commonly known as the May tree because it produces a profuse display of white or slightly pink blossom (the ‘may’) in late April or early May. The appearance of the ‘may’ is a sign of the transition from spring to summer and it once played a large part in May Day festivities. Red berries (‘haws’) follow in the autumn.

Of course, we know hawthorn for its extensive use in hedgerows rather than as a standalone tree. The name 'haw' actually derives from 'hage', the Old English for 'hedge'. As many as 200,000 miles of hawthorn hedges were planted in the Parliamentary Enclosure period, between 1750 and 1850. Its thickly twisted, thorny branches make an effective barrier against livestock (and humans). When left to grow as a tree, hawthorn can reach a height of 15m.



June

Wed 1	
Thu 2	Spring Bank Holiday
Fri 3	Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Sat 4	
Sun 5	
Mon 6	
Tue 7	
Wed 8	
Thu 9	

Fri	10	
Sat	11	
Sun	12	
Mon	13	
Tue	14	
Wed	15	
Thu	16	
Fri	17	
Sat	18	
Sun	19	Father's Day
Mon	20	

Tue	21	●
Summer Solstice		
Wed	22	
Thu	23	
Fri	24	
Sat	25	
Sun	26	
Mon	27	
Tue	28	
Wed	29	●
Thu	30	

Willow

There are many species of Willow and they freely hybridise making identification difficult. Willows were often planted alongside rivers to stabilise their banks. They are fast-growing but relatively short-lived, being prone to disease and wind damage. Willows are often pollarded and benefit from frequent pruning to reduce their canopies, control trailing branches, and remove any diseased or damaged parts.

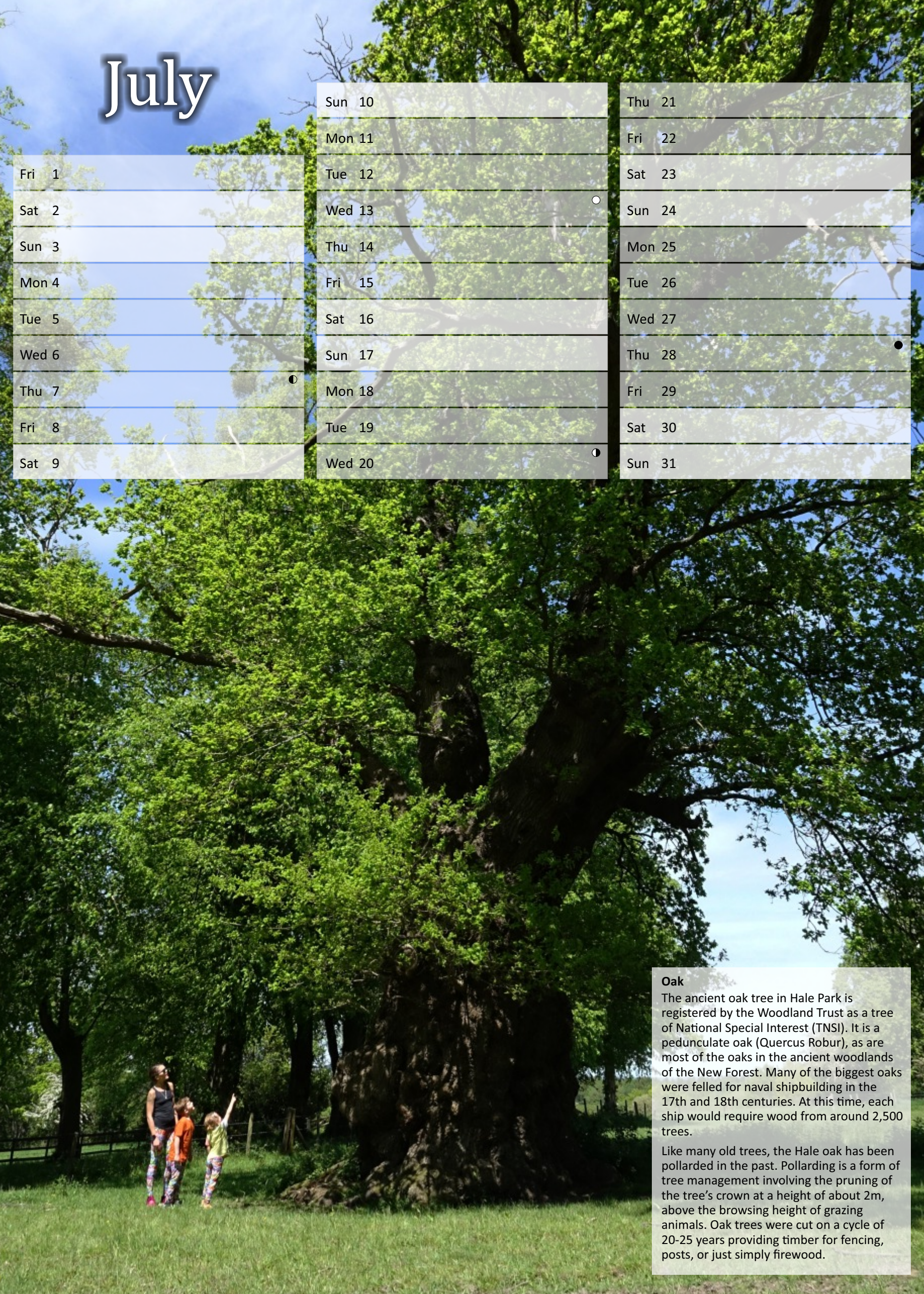


July

Fri	1
Sat	2
Sun	3
Mon	4
Tue	5
Wed	6
Thu	7
Fri	8
Sat	9

Sun	10
Mon	11
Tue	12
Wed	13
Thu	14
Fri	15
Sat	16
Sun	17
Mon	18
Tue	19
Wed	20

Thu	21
Fri	22
Sat	23
Sun	24
Mon	25
Tue	26
Wed	27
Thu	28
Fri	29
Sat	30
Sun	31



Oak

The ancient oak tree in Hale Park is registered by the Woodland Trust as a tree of National Special Interest (TNSI). It is a pedunculate oak (*Quercus Robur*), as are most of the oaks in the ancient woodlands of the New Forest. Many of the biggest oaks were felled for naval shipbuilding in the 17th and 18th centuries. At this time, each ship would require wood from around 2,500 trees.

Like many old trees, the Hale oak has been pollarded in the past. Pollarding is a form of tree management involving the pruning of the tree's crown at a height of about 2m, above the browsing height of grazing animals. Oak trees were cut on a cycle of 20-25 years providing timber for fencing, posts, or just simply firewood.

August

Mon 1	Summer Bank Holiday (Scotland only)
Tue 2	
Wed 3	
Thu 4	
Fri 5	☾
Sat 6	
Sun 7	
Mon 8	
Tue 9	

Wed 10	
Thu 11	
Fri 12	☾
Sat 13	
Sun 14	
Mon 15	
Tue 16	
Wed 17	
Thu 18	
Fri 19	☾
Sat 20	

Sun 21	
Mon 22	
Tue 23	
Wed 24	
Thu 25	
Fri 26	
Sat 27	☾
Sun 28	
Mon 29	Summer Bank Holiday (not Scotland)
Tue 30	
Wed 31	



Rowan

The Rowan (also known as the Mountain Ash) is a tough tree which grows in a variety of habitats including mountainous and heathland areas. In British folklore, it was believed to protect against witchcraft and enchantment and was often planted outside houses and churches. Nowadays, it is widely planted as a street or garden tree because of its attractive flowers and berries.

In the New Forest, the Rowan’s ability to send up new shoots from its base in response to being eaten allows it to survive repeated grazing and occasionally develop into trees up to 15m tall. It is often seen standing as a lone tree in a windswept location. The bright red berries that develop in August from creamy-white, spring flowers are a favourite autumn food for many birds including thrush, fieldfare and waxwing.



September

	Sat 10	○	Wed 21
	Sun 11		Thu 22
Thu 1	Mon 12		Fri 23
Fri 2	Tue 13		Sat 24
Sat 3	Wed 14		Sun 25
Sun 4	Thu 15		Mon 26
Mon 5	Fri 16		Tue 27
Tue 6	Sat 17	●	Wed 28
Wed 7	Sun 18		Thu 29
Thu 8	Mon 19		Fri 30
Fri 9	Tue 20		



Sweet Chestnut catkins

Sweet Chestnut and Horse Chestnut
The Sweet Chestnut is a Mediterranean tree and it’s likely that the Romans introduced it here. Unlike the conkers of the Horse Chestnut, the nuts of the Sweet Chestnut are edible and can be used in a variety of recipes. The timber is similar to oak but easier to work and it is a common tree in woods, often as a coppice, particularly in the New Forest. In July, Sweet Chestnuts produce long, pale yellow catkins.

The Horse Chestnut (no relation, despite the name) is native to the Balkan peninsula. It has been widely planted as an ornamental tree on streets and in parks since it was introduced into this country in the 16th century. It’s timber is soft and has no commercial uses. In May, the tree produces ‘candles’ covered in white or pink flowers. And, of course, in autumn it yields conkers!



Horse Chestnut ‘candles’



Sweet Chestnut on Lady’s Mile



Horse Chestnut at Breamore Station

October

Sat	1	
Sun	2	
Mon	3	☾
Tue	4	
Wed	5	
Thu	6	
Fri	7	
Sat	8	
Sun	9	☉
Mon	10	
Tue	11	
Wed	12	
Thu	13	
Fri	14	
Sat	15	
Sun	16	
Mon	17	☾
Tue	18	
Wed	19	
Thu	20	
Fri	21	
Sat	22	
Sun	23	
Mon	24	
Tue	25	●
Wed	26	
Thu	27	
Fri	28	
Sat	29	
Sun	30	British Summer Time ends
Mon	31	Halloween



Hale Park Limes
Hale House was built in 1715 by Thomas Archer and he is most likely to have been responsible for laying out the surrounding park. From the entrance lodge, a double avenue of four staggered rows of limes known as ‘The Straight’, runs to the front of the house. Another single avenue of limes also continues in the opposite direction from Hale Lane, either side of a grassed track, for about 700m towards Hatchet Green Lodge. These trees are younger and were probably planted in the early 20th century, replacing an avenue on the same line consisting of alternating broad-leaved trees and conifers. Limes are susceptible to mistletoe and the trees on the Hale Park avenue are festooned with many enormous globes of mistletoe, hidden away under the foliage except during the winter months.

November

	Thu 10	Mon 21
	Fri 11	Tue 22
Tue 1	Sat 12	Wed 23
Wed 2	Sun 13	Thu 24
Thu 3	Mon 14	Fri 25
Fri 4	Tue 15	Sat 26
Sat 5	Wed 16	Sun 27
Sun 6	Thu 17	Mon 28
Mon 7	Fri 18	Tue 29
Tue 8	Sat 19	Wed 30
Wed 9	Sun 20	



Autumn leaves - some chemistry

As the nights get longer, deciduous trees begin to shut down. As part of this process, nutrients, including chlorophyll, are no longer sent to the leaves. As the chlorophyll in the leaves breaks down and its dominant green colour fades, the colours of other chemicals in the leaf begin to show.

Carotenoids, always present but masked by the chlorophyll through spring and summer, show up with orange and yellow pigments. As a consequence of the breakdown of chlorophyll and other chemical processes, anthrocyanins are formed, producing red and purple pigments. This is significant in maples and oaks and is promoted by strong sunlight. In many hardwood species, these two chemicals can combine to create deep orange, and red colours.

Eventually, the carotenoids and anthrocyanins also break down, and all that remains is the brown tannins of the leaf membranes.

December

Thu	1	
Fri	2	
Sat	3	
Sun	4	
Mon	5	
Tue	6	
Wed	7	
Thu	8	○
Fri	9	
Sat	10	
Sun	11	
Mon	12	
Tue	13	
Wed	14	
Thu	15	
Fri	16	●
Sat	17	
Sun	18	
Mon	19	
Tue	20	
Wed	21	Winter Solstice
Thu	22	
Fri	23	●
Sat	24	
Sun	25	Christmas Day
Mon	26	Boxing Day
Tue	27	Bank Holiday
Wed	28	
Thu	29	
Fri	30	●
Sat	31	



Holly
Mature Holly trees can grow up to 15m and live for 300 years. Locally, holly trees were regularly coppiced to provide firewood and winter fodder for livestock. Holly's red berries and green leaves have become the colours and symbols of Christmas. It has had an association with Christmas and Christianity since the Middle Ages but many pagan cultures also brought holly into their homes during winter, believing its ability to keep its leaves was magical.



Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2022 from Katy and all the staff and volunteers at Woodgreen Community Shop and Post Office.

This calendar was produced by Steve Morris and Bill Shepley with the help of David Mussell and Alix Downing. Special thanks to Sloan Hickman for permission to access Hale Park.

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