

## Trees are amazing.

Did you know that they're able to communicate with each other, via underground fungal networks, scent signals, and sound? These astoundingly complex systems allow them to share water and sugars, warn each other of dangers, and to nurture their seedlings. Trees are our most powerful defence against global warming. A young woodland with mixed native trees captures and stores more than four hundred tonnes of atmospheric carbon per hectare.

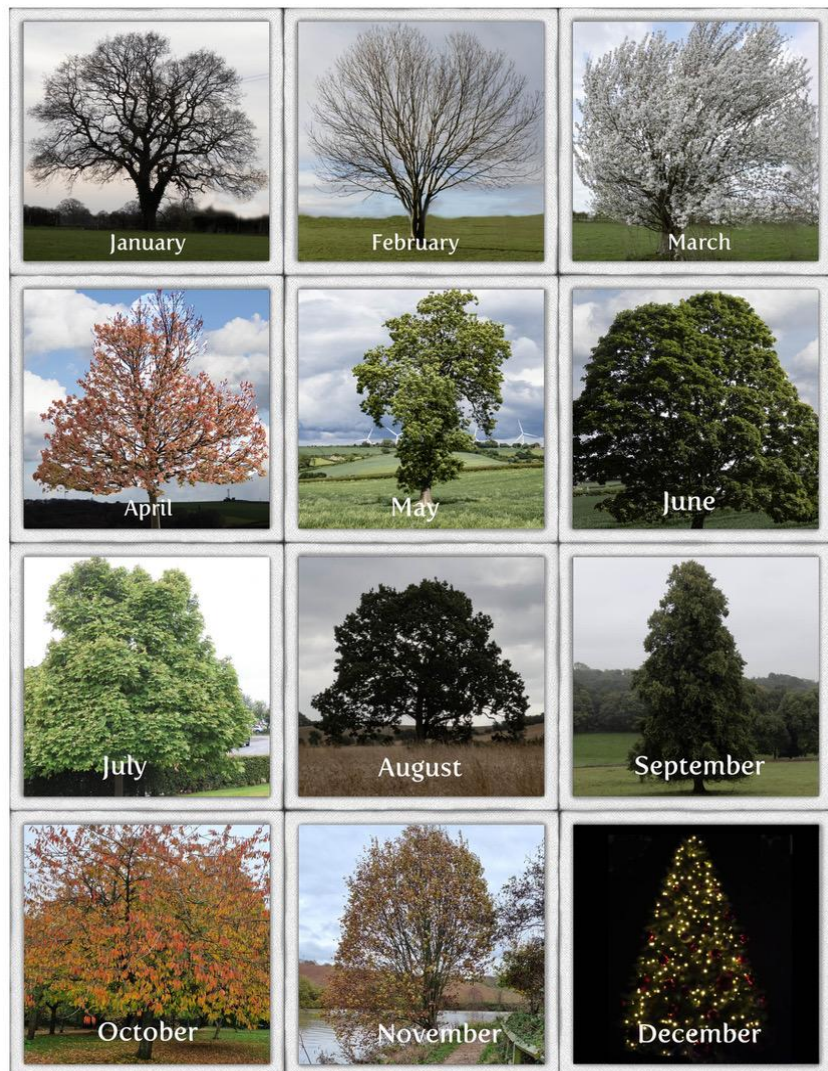
From time immemorial, mankind has had a close relationship with trees. Not only do they provide for physical needs, oxygen, food, building materials, fires for protection and warmth and raw materials for making paper and soap, but also security in the form of natural shelter, and a sense of place.

We enjoy occupying tree-filled landscapes. Not only are they pleasing to the eye, but as a recent study showed, being surrounded by trees calms the senses and relaxes the body. There's a natural harmony between man and trees.



Not surprising then, that last year's senseless felling of the Sycamore Gap tree triggered world-wide outcry, and a renewed public appreciation of the emotional and physical appeal of trees.

Taking up a general invitation issued to photographers and artists by the National Trust, to use the site as a stimulus for reflection, Rotherham u3a Photography group embarked on a year-long project, each member photographing a different tree every month throughout the year in homage to the lost Sycamore Gap tree. The result is a stunning collection of "calendars" illustrating the beauty and diversity of trees. Their ever-imaginative work is a tribute to the Ru3a principal of lifelong learning.



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