

80 Oaks

‘Oaks at 80’ project launched by the Great Western Community Forest to commemorate the upcoming 80th anniversary of the end of World War II

The following text was circulated in the Town and Parish Council Update dated 26 Sep 2025. TH&F should consider whether to take this opportunity to plant an oak to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

A project to plant oak trees to commemorate the end of World War II will shortly be launched by the Great Western Community Forest.

The ‘Oaks at 80’ project will see communities across the area plant oak trees to honour the service men and women and civilians who played their part to defend our country and way of life. Oak trees have traditionally marked 80-year milestones and embody strength, resilience and longevity – virtues that resonate deeply with the sacrifices made during World War II and the hopeful spirit of peace that followed.

The GWCF will be offering £80 to Parish Councils and MOD military bases in Wiltshire to purchase a suitable oak tree (plus guard and support) to plant at their own individual event during the 2025-26 tree planting season (November 2025 to February 2026). We expect this £80 to cover the cost of an English Oak (*Quercus robur*) container grown in a 10-litre pot, around 175/200 cm, with guard and stake support.

By coming together to plant these oak trees, we not only honour the sacrifices of those who lived through World War II but also create a long-lasting commemoration that will benefit our communities and environment for generations to come.

If you are interested in receiving funding to plant a commemorative oak tree on Parish Council land or private land (in a visible / accessible place) and you have landowner permission, please complete an application via this link surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/s/oaksat80 by 1 November 2025

Cllr Stephen James
October 2025