



LET'S GO
OUTSIDE AND
LEARN

Trees in folklore and tradition

CIC Registration 9435120

Wishing trees are individual tree which are chosen for their spiritual value and used as an object to make wishes and offerings. They exist in lots of cultures and religions.



Wishing Trees in Thailand,
Scotland and China

In Hindu mythology, the banyan tree is also called kalpavriksha, ("wish-fulfilling tree"). It represents eternal life because of its seemingly many branches.



Tell us your experiences of wishing trees.

Make your own cloutie tree

Choose your own tree or send us a wish to include on our tree.



In Scotland and Ireland the practice of tying cloths to trees, is known as "cloutie and "cloughtie" in Cornwall.

A-Z of tree folklore

Apple

Traditionally apples have been wassailed over by country folk to ensure a good crop. They are the symbol of plenty.

Ash

In Norse Viking mythology, ash was referred to as the 'Tree of Life'. In Britain we regarded ash as a healing tree.

Beech

No harm could befall a traveler who sought shelter under **the branches of a beech tree.**

Birch

Traditional broomsticks are made of birch twigs as Birch twigs brush away evil spirits.

Hawthorn

Hawthorn is regarded as a sacred tree, great misfortune was threatened to come to those who destroyed it.



Medieval midwinter English drinking ceremony to ensure a good apple harvest the following year.

The Woodland Trust have a great guide to British trees.
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/>

LET'S GO
OUTSIDE AND
LEARN

Hazel

Hazel has a reputation as a magical tree. A hazel rod is supposed to protect against evil spirits. Stirring jam with a hazel twig prevents it from being stolen by fairies! In some parts of England hazel nuts were carried as charms.

Holly

Hanging holly leaves around the house was also thought to keep evil spirits away and used as a charm against house goblins. In European mythology, holly was associated with the thunder God Thor.

Oak

The Green Man is wreathed in oak leaves. The acorn is considered a symbol of immortality and to carry one will prevent illness and ensure a long life.

Rowan

Pieces of the tree were carried by people for personal protection. Crosses made from rowan twigs and bound with red thread were sewn into the lining of coats or carried in pockets.



The Green Man represents the cycle of new growth that occurs every spring. The Green Man is usually shown as a face which is made of oak leaves.

A-Z of tree folklore
Pt 2

LET'S GO
OUTSIDE AND
LEARN

We would love to hear from you!

A tree never hits a car except in self defense. American proverb

Where is there a tree not shaken by the wind?
Armenian Proverb

If you want to be happy for a year, plant a garden; if you want to be happy for life, plant a tree. English Proverb

The one who plants the tree is not the one who will enjoy its shade.

A little axe can cut down a big tree. Jamaican Proverb

Chinese proverb

All proverbs taken from:

<https://proverbicals.com/tree-proverbs>

Do you know any other folklore to add to this collection?

Are there any traditions linked to trees from your culture?

Do you know any interesting traditional rhymes or stories linked to trees?

