



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
Foundation Tier  
November 2014

## English/English Language

ENG1F

Unit 1 Understanding and producing non-fiction texts

F

### Insert

The three sources that follow are:

- **Source 1:** an online article called, 'The Pontfadog oak was the oldest of the old, revered, loved ... and now mourned' by John Vidal
- **Source 2:** a letter from a charity campaign by The Woodland Trust
- **Source 3:** 'Autumn', an extract from a non-fiction book about nature.

Please open the insert fully  
to see all three sources

## Source 1

theguardian | TheObserver



News | Sport | Comment | Culture | Business | Money | Life & Style | Travel | Environment | TV

Environment > Trees and forests

# The Pontfadog oak was the oldest of the old, revered, loved ... and now mourned

**A storm has toppled the 1,200-year-old tree. But why did the oak inspire such devotion among the villagers who knew it?**

**John Vidal**



The toppled Pontfadog oak. Photograph: Jenny Bates for the Observer

Huw Williams wasn't too worried when he was woken at 2.20am by a mighty crack. The old tree that stood 30 feet behind his farmhouse had probably lost another bough in the gale raging outside, he thought. He checked that everyone was safe and the roof intact and went back to sleep.

The shock came when he went to work. The storm had blown itself out, but the tree that had overlooked the valley for 1,200 years, surviving tempest, battle, fire, the threat of flooding and 40 or more generations of people taking its wood for fuel and buildings had been uprooted.

The Pontfadog oak was the oldest tree in Wales, the third largest in Britain and one of the oldest in Europe. It was lying among the primroses in the bright spring sunshine, its roots pointing skywards, and piles of branches, decayed wood, nests and bark in the grass around it.

The news was on Facebook by breakfast. By lunch the experts, the tree enthusiasts and the curious were arriving in Pontfadog. That evening, when the tourists had gone, about 30 locals from the valley gathered by

the tree. 'It was like a wake,' one said, 'We raised a glass to it.'

"It was always a working tree. It was part of the community. People built houses from it, cooked from it. That's why it lived so long," said Moray Simpson, tree officer for Wrexham council.

"It had a particular fascination for children. The annual Easter egg hunt would always start there and it was the symbol of the local primary school," said Huw Williams.

"My daughter Danielle used to say it was a real-life Enid Blyton Magic Faraway Tree, or like the Whomping Willow in the Harry Potter stories," said Lynne Babbington from the village.

No one knew quite how old it was but tree expert Michael Lear, said, "The youngest it can be is 1,181 years, the oldest 1,628 years. I cannot find a record of an older oak tree anywhere in the world."

"It was just our tree, part of the landscape. We were very proud of it," said one villager the next day.

## Source 2



Dear Friend

### Help The Woodland Trust lead the way to a leafier UK

Sussex is home to some beautiful woodland and is one of the greenest parts of the UK. Brede High Woods is just one area of ancient woodland in this country, cared for by The Woodland Trust.

This is how we'd like the rest of the UK to be, but unfortunately, we are one of the countries in Europe that has the least woodland. Our ancient woodland now covers just 2% of the UK. Woodland is an irreplaceable resource and has been part of our landscape since the last ice age. It is also our richest wildlife habitat and is currently home to 79 threatened and declining species.

### The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust are the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. We work on projects to increase our native woodland and to protect and improve the little ancient woodland that is left. We campaign for better government protection of woods and trees, and projects that promote woodland restoration and creation.

In the last 10 years we've fought nearly 500 cases in the UK involving 1,079 woods which were at risk as a result of plans for building projects. We are currently dealing with 383 ancient woods under threat:

- 76 face being cleared away to make space for new roads
- 90 could be damaged by utility services such as laying pipes
- 39 are threatened by plans for new houses
- 68 are in danger of being lost to quarrying.

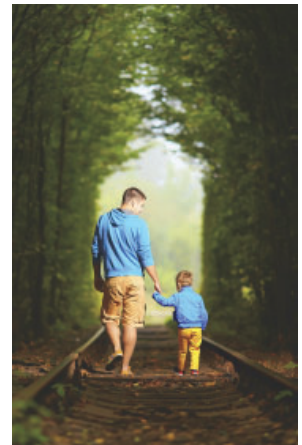
### Become a member

We hope you will consider joining us as a much-valued member. Half an acre of native woodlands can, on average, be protected and cared for with every new member who joins us.

Together we can save more woods like Brede High Woods and help the rest of the UK become a place rich in woods and trees that everyone can value and enjoy.

**Sue Holden**

Chief Executive - Woodland Trust



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Source 3: Text from '152 Wild Things to Do' used with the kind permission of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts © Elliott and Thompson Ltd

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# AUTUMN

Autumn provides a burst of colour and activity after the burned and browning end of summer and before the crisp quietness of winter. The spectrum of brilliant colours that the leaves turn is an eye opener every year. Welly-clad and wading through woodland that is thickly carpeted with crispy leaves, it's hard not to feel young at heart and light in mind. Autumn is the time to hunt for conkers and fungi, bursting up all over the place in weird and wonderful forms, and to preserve foraged fruit in pies and jam.

This is the season when the days are rapidly getting shorter and the sun is becoming lower in the sky. There are often spectacular sunsets in autumn. The stars can seem brighter at night, and on some mornings mist hangs luxuriously low over fields and parks. Autumn means wonderful hedgerow harvests of blackberries, rose hips, crab apples, hazelnuts and seeds. Many wildlife species take advantage of this abundance of food to build up reserves of fat for migration or for hibernation.

Autumn is great for watching deer. This is the time of year when stags and bucks develop antlers and fight rival males to attract females. Red deer are our largest land mammal and the stags have the most spectacular antlers of any British species. If you like photography, you can get some great autumnal shots of deer with bracken knotted in their antlers or creating plumes of steam when they breathe out into cool air on crisp mornings.

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**Open out this page to see  
Source 2 and Source 3**