



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Thursday 16th September, 2021

The RHS Queen's Green Canopy Garden – Chelsea Flower Show

- *Dame Judi Dench – Queen's Green Canopy Ambassador - to open the garden and invite people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"*
- *Countdown begins to the start of the official planting season on 1st October!*

With less than a fortnight until the start of the official planting season in October, **The RHS Queen's Green Canopy Garden** will be unveiled at the Chelsea Flower Show on Monday 20th September, 2021.

The garden, which highlights the value of trees, has been created in partnership between The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) – a unique tree planting initiative celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by inviting people to **"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"**.

QGC Ambassador Dame Judi Dench will officially open the garden and encourage everyone to plant trees across the UK as a simple, natural solution to climate change, cleaner air, habitat for wildlife and enhancement to health and wellbeing. Tree planting will commence from 1st October, when the tree planting season begins, through to March 2022, and will start again in October until the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The garden will be the first physical event to take place for the QGC since the launch at virtual RHS Chelsea in May. Since then, people across the country have been busy planning their projects, ready for planting in the Autumn. From 1st October, everyone will be able to pin their newly planted Jubilee trees to the QGC Map: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

Sir Nicholas Bacon, Chair of the QGC said: *"We hope our garden at the world famous RHS Chelsea Flower Show inspires millions of people across the United Kingdom to get involved and 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'. The Jubilee is an historic occasion – in 2022, The Queen will become the first Monarch in British history to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee – 70 years of service. The Queen's Green Canopy is giving everyone the opportunity to celebrate this remarkable milestone by planting trees with care, at the right time of year, in the right place so they will thrive for generations to come."*

Designed by David Dodd, The RHS Queen's Green Canopy Garden features a tapestry of grassland beneath a canopy of 21 trees – a living picture of biodiverse regeneration in its various phases. Please find attached a RHS media release with further details of the garden, and the designer.

Since its launch in May, the QGC has been working closely with our partners to develop a programme of activities which will be unveiled in coming months, including:

- **An education programme** to highlight the importance of trees and the significance of giving young people access to nature, encouraging wider engagement with the QGC across the school curriculum.
- **A green skilling initiative**, working in collaboration with Cavendish Group and Capel Manor College to create a pilot training programme for young unemployed people with a keen interest in horticulture.
- **An urban community planting programme** which focusses on the social and environmental impact of tree planting, prioritising projects in places with socio-economic deprivation and low canopy cover.
- **A “Champion Cities” initiative** to highlight the leadership, dynamism and influence of some of the nation’s outstanding cities which have trees and woodland as a central part of their plans for green spaces.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the QGC will create a network of **70 Ancient Woodlands** across the UK and identify **70 Ancient Trees** to celebrate Her Majesty’s 70 years of service. The QGC has convened a group of forestry experts from across the country to determine which woodlands and trees will become part of the QGC.

QGC key dates

1st OCTOBER - start of the Official Planting Season / launch of QGC Map

A series of activities to mark the start of the official planting season on 1st of October will be announced in due course.

1st NOVEMBER – COP26

As the host of COP26, the UK is leading by example as it brings world leaders together for key climate talks to be held in Glasgow.

At the time of the Summit, people all over the nation will be playing their part to enhance the environment by planting trees to mark The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

27th November - National Tree Week

The QGC is working with our partners to generate activities to mark National Tree Week, the UK’s largest annual tree celebration.

The Queen's Green Canopy - New Partners

Collaboration is central to the QGC. In addition to **Cool Earth, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, The Forest Canopy Foundation and DEFRA**, we are proud to announce new partners to help us plant and protect trees across the UK.

The Tree Council

The Tree Council brings everyone together with a shared mission to care for trees and our planet's future. They inspire and empower organisations, government, communities and individuals with the knowledge and tools to create positive, lasting change at a national and local level.

Sara Lom, CEO of The Tree Council said: *"We are delighted to be partnering with The Queen's Green Canopy to create an environmental and cultural legacy that celebrates The Queen's historic 70 years of service to the nation. Working alongside our Jubilee Partners, we will be planting an incredible 35,000 trees and 7km of hedgerow in 2021 and 2022 in honour of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, enhancing treescapes across the United Kingdom and playing our part in caring for our planet's future. We are proud to be part of such a remarkable and unique initiative."*

The Conservation Volunteers

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) brings people together to create, improve and care for green spaces. TCV connects people to the green spaces that form a vital part of any healthy, happy community.

Douglas Palarm, Head of Partnerships and Fundraising, TVC said: *"TCV is incredibly proud to be a part of The Queen's Green Canopy. Together with our partners and our volunteers we hope to plant and pledge over 1 million new trees across the UK – for climate, wildlife and communities."*

The Queen's Green Canopy – New Platinum Supporters

The QGC is grateful to be working with a select group of Platinum Supporters: **Royal Mail Group, Coutts, John Lewis & Partners, Waitrose & Partners, Rentokil Initial and Coupa**. We are proud to announce new Platinum Supporters including:

Regatta and Craghoppers

Based in Manchester, family-owned brands Regatta, Craghoppers and Dare2b have been producing your "everyday" and more specialist technical outdoor gear for over 38 years. With an emphasis on minimizing their impact on the environment, they have a very robust sustainability programme in place. Available in over 55 countries, the brands are well known for providing the right kit for every adventure.

Joanne Black, Director, Regatta and Craghoppers said: *"It is an honour for us to be supporting this unique initiative, which complements the work we are already doing as a company,*

to minimise our impact on the environment. We are looking forward to sharing this opportunity with our colleagues and our partners across the world so they can get involved as well and help widen the message.”

Bridgepoint

Bridgepoint Group PLC is the world’s leading quoted private assets growth investor focused on the middle-market with €27 billion AUM and a local presence in the US, Europe and China.

William Jackson, Chairman of Bridgepoint said: *“Bridgepoint is delighted to partner with The Queen’s Green Canopy as part of the celebrations to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee. This unique tree planting initiative offers an enormous opportunity for all of us to make a difference in safeguarding the environment for generations to come.”*

Howdens

Founded in 1995 Howdens has grown to be the UK’s leading trade kitchen supplier having delivered over six million fitted kitchens to the UK market. Now with over 750 depots nationwide, Howdens offers a vast range of kitchens and joinery products from local stock. The objectives of the QGC to encourage more people and organisations to plant more trees across the UK aligns with Howdens’ belief that the business should be worthwhile for all concerned including customers, prospective customers, homeowners, tenants, local communities, suppliers, investors, staff, and their families.

Andrew Livingston, CEO, Howdens said: *“We are proud to be a partner of The Queen’s Green Canopy in celebration of Her Majesty’s historic Platinum Jubilee, and we are looking forward to working together on initiatives across the UK including the ‘Plant a tree for the Jubilee’ activity.”*

Johnnie Walker

Johnnie Walker is the world’s best-selling Scotch whisky brand, enjoyed in more than 180 countries worldwide. In 2020, its bicentenary year, Johnnie Walker restated its commitment to grain to glass sustainability, including ambitious plans to protect and restore the natural landscape in Scotland - the home of its whiskies - and beyond.

Ewan Andrew, Chief Sustainability Officer, Johnnie Walker’s parent company Diageo, said: *“As Scotch Whisky Distillers By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen, Johnnie Walker is proud to support The Queen’s Green Canopy. It is such a wonderful and important way to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee; from ancient woodlands to urban planting, the campaign will create havens for wildlife and natural monuments for people to enjoy and remember Her Majesty’s extraordinary reign for generations. We look forward to getting into the spirit of ‘Plant a Tree for the Jubilee’ and encouraging others to do the same.”*

McDonald’s UK & Ireland:

McDonald’s first opened in the UK in 1974 and now operates over 1,400 restaurants across the UK and Ireland, employing over 140,000 people. Our longstanding commitment to high quality standards of food sourcing sees us support over 23,000 British and Irish farmers who supply the ingredients which make our iconic menu items.

Beth Hart, VP Supply Chain & Brand Trust, McDonald's UK & Ireland said: *“We are delighted to be supporting this fantastic initiative, enabling the country to come together and plant a tree for the Queen’s Jubilee. Together with our farmers, suppliers and franchisees, we are committed to improving the sustainability of our business and driving positive changes to reduce our impact on the environment. Through this programme, we will work together to plant trees and bring our customers with us, making a real difference in the communities in which we operate. We are excited to work with the Queen’s Green Canopy team and supporting partners to celebrate this wonderful milestone for Her Majesty and to join the nation in creating a canopy of green for future generations to enjoy.”*

The Queen’s Green Canopy – QGC Friends Network

The Queen’s Green Canopy would like to recognise the following organisations who have become QGC Friends. A diverse collection of groups located across the UK, each one is supporting the QGC, from planting trees to helping inspire the nation to get involved.

Capel Manor College	National Trust
Country Land & Business Association (CLA)	National Trust for Scotland
Clyde Climate Forest	Natural England
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Natural Resources Wales
Earthwatch Europe	National Farmers Union Scotland
Eden Project	Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
EDT Industrial Cadets	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
English Heritage	Royal Forestry Society
Forestry and Land Scotland	Royal Scottish Forestry Society
Forestry Commission	Scottish Forestry
Green Action Trust	Scottish Land & Estates
Historic Houses	SUGi
Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)	The Crown Estate
National Association of Civic Officers (NACO)	The National Forest
National Farmers Union (NFU)	The Royal Parks
	The Wildlife Trusts

Background - The Queen’s Green Canopy

The Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to **“Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”**.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, *The Queen's Green Canopy* will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

By inviting everyone to plant considerable numbers of new trees throughout the country, the QGC seeks to highlight the significant value of trees and woodlands as nature's simple but highly effective way to clean the air we breathe, slow the impact of climate change, create important wildlife habitats and improve our general health and wellbeing.

- Throughout Her reign, The Queen has planted more than 1,500 trees all over the world and has spoken alongside Sir David Attenborough of the importance of trees in the Earth's future.
- The QGC is a voluntary and inclusive initiative which is open to participation by everyone in the UK.
- The QGC is a symbolic gift which involves the voluntary dedication of forests and woodland – there is no land/title transfer.
- Planting trees and protecting forests are simple, cost effective ways to slow climate change, filter our air, enhance our communities and provide habitats for wildlife.
- The QGC is a not-for-profit initiative, which has not received Government funding.

Further information about the QGC is available: www.queensgreencanopy.org

QGC Website and social media channels

Instagram: @queensgreencanopy

Twitter: @QGCanopy

Facebook: @queensgreencanopy

LinkedIn: @queensgreencanopy

Hashtags: #queensgreencanopy #plantatreeforthejubilee #jubileetree

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