



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

PATRIOTIC TREES TO CELEBRATE LEICESTER AS A QGC "CHAMPION CITY"

Sunday 5th December 2021

To bring National Tree Week to a close, a trio of Jubilee trees, chosen for their red, white and blue foliage, will be planted for The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) at a community event to celebrate Leicester as a QGC "Champion City" on Sunday 5th December.

One of the most diverse cities in the UK, community is at the heart of Leicester which is also central to its tree strategy through the involvement of an **inspiring network of volunteer "tree wardens"** - symbolic of the spirit that exists within the vibrant community.

With plans to plant over **7,500 trees during the planting season**, Leicester is celebrated for its commitment to maintaining and replenishing its 153,000 trees and 109 hectares of woodland set out in its Tree Strategy. The QGC "Champion Cities" programme has been launched to highlight some of the nation's outstanding cities which have trees as a central part of their plans for green spaces.

The trio of trees - a red-leafed acer, a white poplar and a blue-leafed eucalyptus - will be planted during a family event in Abbey Park hosted by Leicester City Council where **1,000 trees will be given away** to encourage people to "plant a tree for the Jubilee".

Cllr Piara Singh Clair, Deputy City Mayor responsible for Parks, said:

"In around 20 years' time, when these three trees will be semi-mature, we hope that their canopies will merge to create a vision of red, white and blue. I would encourage everyone in the city to join in with the project by planting a tree in their garden, growing an oak from an acorn in a flower pot, or planting trees at their schools or place of work. There's lot of information on The Queen's Green Canopy [website](#) – and there's plenty of time to get involved before the tree planting season ends in March."

Deputy City Mayor for the Environment, Cllr Adam Clarke, said:

"Planting trees to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 will leave a lasting legacy. Trees are not only beautiful to look at, but they support wildlife, provide cleaner air, reduce pollution levels and mitigate the effects of climate change. Let's all get involved and support this brilliant project."

Julie Etchingham, ITV presenter and former resident of Leicester, said:

"Delighted to see my hometown of Leicester is playing such an important part in The Queen's Green Canopy initiative as a 'Champion City'. It's a city which has always relished its green spaces - I have lovely childhood memories of playing in the ancient woodlands of Bradgate Park, or enjoying the green spaces around Abbey Park. How wonderful that the community

has pledged to help plant thousands of trees in honour of The Queen's Jubilee - I know we'll all be cheering on the volunteers taking part."

Background

Leicester: tree facts and figures

Tree canopy covers around 1,200 hectares in Leicester, with the city council owning around 153,000 individual trees and around 109 hectares of woodland.

Leicester's first Tree Strategy was launched by City Mayor Peter Soulsby during National Tree Week in 2018.

The five-year strategy guides the city council as it sustains and increases its tree stock and improves the quality of the city's trees. It also promotes the important role trees can play in maintaining a high-quality city environment, reducing air pollution, supporting wildlife, mitigating the effects of climate change and contributing to flood risk management.

The strategy outlines how the city's trees will be managed to ensure that Leicester's urban forest is maintained and protected for future generations.

Key points:

- Leicester City Council spends around £1.5 million every year, managing the city's trees and woodlands
- Tree canopy covers around 1,200 hectares in Leicester
- The city council owns around 153,000 individual trees. This includes trees in parks and open spaces, on highway verges, on housing estates, within the grounds of schools, and around community facilities
- In addition, the council owns 109 hectares of woodland
- The city council plants more than one replacement tree for any tree that is felled
- 9,519 new trees were planted between April 2019 and April 2021, including 23 along the new Memorial Walk at Watermead Park, 600 in a Tiny Forest at Queensmead Primary Academy, around 2,500 at Castle Hill Country Park, and nearly 5,000 at Aylestone Meadows and Knighton Park
- This planting season, Leicester City Council plans to plant more than 7,500 trees, supported by its volunteer tree wardens and dozens of community volunteers.
- During National Tree Week, Leicester's tree wardens, environmental volunteers and corporate groups will help to plant over 900 small trees on Monks Rest Gardens
- In 2021, the Tree Strategy was reviewed to include an update on the progress that's been made

The Tree Strategy, and the review document, can be viewed here:

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/city-mayor-peter-soulsby/my-vision/sustainable-leicester/tree-strategy/>

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 during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage tree planting 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.
- The QGC is a not-for-profit initiative, which has not received Government funding.

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

The Queen's Green Canopy Partners

Collaboration is central to the QGC. We are proud to work with our partners **Cool Earth, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, The Forest Canopy Foundation and DEFRA, The Tree Council, The Conservation Volunteers and Community Forest Trust.**

The Queen's Green Canopy – 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, Coupa, Regatta and Craghoppers, Bridgepoint, Howdens, Johnnie Walker, McDonald's UK & Ireland.**

We are also pleased to be working with **Bags of Ethics by Supreme Creations as an Official Supporter.**

The Queen's Green Canopy – QGC Friends Network

A diverse collection of groups located across the UK, our Friends Network 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
Community Woodlands Association (CWA)	National Farmers Union Scotland
DAERA NI	Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
Earthwatch Europe	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Eden Project	Royal Forestry Society
EDT Industrial Cadets	Royal Scottish Forestry Society
English Heritage	Royal Warrant Holders Association
Forestry and Land Scotland	Scotland Finest Woods Awards
Forestry Commission	Scottish Forestry
Green Action Trust	Scottish Land & Estates
HighGround	SUGi
Historic Houses	The Crown Estate
Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)	The National Forest
National Association of Civic Officers (NACO)	The Royal Parks
National Farmers Union (NFU)	The Wildlife Trust
	Welsh Government

QGC social media channels

Instagram: @queensgreencanopy

Twitter: @QGCanopy

Facebook: @queensgreencanopy

LinkedIn: @queensgreencanopy

Hashtags: #queensgreencanopy #plantatreeforthejubilee #jubileetree

Notes to Editors

Members of the media are invited to attend the tree planting event between 1100 and 1300. Please contact Marnie Gaffney at The Queen's Green Canopy to register interest.

Media Contact

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