



**** UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 0001 BST MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022 ****

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY "TREE OF TREES" GIFTING CEREMONY

- *A UK-wide network of over 300 inspiring organisations to be unveiled as part of the living legacy in honour of Her Majesty The Queen*
- *Selected organisations embody a spirit of selflessness and support, with a purpose dedicated to the betterment of their communities, the environment, and the nation*

In honour and loving memory of Her Majesty, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) will mark the start of the official tree planting season in the United Kingdom with a poignant tree gifting ceremony at The Royal Hospital Chelsea in London on Monday 3 October 2022.

A symbolic group of up to 20 inspiring organisations will come together at the Royal Hospital to be presented with a special tree in a pot embossed with Her Majesty's cypher from the QGC "Tree of Trees" which stood tall as a message of hope, regeneration and optimism to the nation and the world as part of the Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations.

The tree gifting ceremony in London is the first of many that will take place across the United Kingdom as the 350 trees which made up the "Tree of Trees" are presented to a diverse group of organisations by His Majesty The King's Lord Lieutenants.

Present on Monday will be organisations responsible for delivering vital public services such as the NHS and the London Ambulance Service, alongside vibrant social enterprises and charities who support people in various ways. Examples across the four nations include:

- In **England**, the Peace Garden Initiative in Luton offers a place for families to plant trees in memory of COVID victims. The Caribbean Sports and Wellbeing Club in Sheffield provides opportunities for young people who have encountered racism and discrimination, and a safe social environment for people of all ages and backgrounds.
- In **Northern Ireland**, Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid has provided safety and support for victims of domestic violence for nearly 50 years. The Rossmar School, in County Londonderry, is a special co-educational school set in mature parkland catering for children aged 4-19 with wide-ranging learning difficulties.
- In **Wales**, the Swansea Environment Centre is a community hub which encourages activities to tackle the challenges of plastic pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change. In Gwent, the Caerphilly Miners' Centre provides accessible and affordable services to support the wellbeing of people throughout their community.
- In **Scotland**, the "Heart for Duns" is a charity coordinating essential voluntary services such as the local food bank, as well as managing the care of plants and trees

in the town. In Aith, Shetland, Michaelswood was planted in memory of a young musician with the purpose of educating people on the benefits of trees while providing a place for the community to enjoy.

A full list of recipients in each nation is attached. Every county in the UK will receive at least one tree. Lord Lieutenants will be honouring local organisations with gifting ceremonies now that the official tree planting season has begun.

Sir Nicholas Bacon, Chairman of The Queen’s Green Canopy said:

We are proud to unveil this nationwide network of organisations chosen to become custodians of these special trees in Her Majesty’s name. In recognition of the positive impact that they have on their communities, the groups chosen represent the very best of Britain. The Queen’s Green Canopy hopes the trees will serve as an inspiration for tree planting within communities and to encourage care for the trees which already exist as part of our nation’s stunning landscape.

Background – The QGC “Tree of Trees” sculpture

Designed by Thomas Heatherwick, the QGC “Tree of Trees” stood tall outside Buckingham Palace as a centrepiece of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. The living sculpture sought to put the importance of trees at the heart of the historic milestone to celebrate Her Majesty, who planted over 1,500 trees all over the world during her 70-year reign.

During the summer the trees were cared for by Barcham’s Nursery ahead of distribution at the start of the planting season in October. The trees will be gifted evenly across the UK in proportion to the population, with each county receiving at least one tree. The Lord Lieutenants of each county, who are His Majesty The King’s representatives, have been championing the QGC locally and have selected the recipients of the special trees and pot.

The Queen’s Green Canopy is a not-for-profit initiative. The “Tree of Trees” sculpture was supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies. More information is available here:

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/QGC-Media-Release-The-Tree-of-Trees-Stands-Tall-ahead-of-PJ-Weekend-24th-May-1.pdf>

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. Following the wishes of our Patron, His Majesty The King, the QGC initiative has been extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty.

As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the QGC was due to conclude in December – the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the UK is from October to March, the initiative will now be extended to include the full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022 and concluding in March 2023.

The Queen's Green Canopy is proud to be creating a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation during the first planting season, October 2021 to March 2022. The extension of the QGC initiative will build on this legacy and serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and her people.

The interactive map created by the QGC to showcase the planting projects across the United Kingdom will also continue to the end of March 2023, giving people an opportunity to be part of this special legacy. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy has dedicated a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identified 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/ancient-trees-and-ancient-woodland/70-ancient-trees-and-70-ancient-woodlands/>

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 planted more than 1,500 trees all over the world and spoke 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 **Cool Earth, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, The Forest Canopy Foundation, DEFRA, The Tree Council, The Conservation Volunteers & Community Forest Trust.**

The Queen's Green Canopy – Platinum Supporters

The QGC is grateful to the **Royal Mail Group** as our first Founding Partner. We are also working with Platinum Supporters **Bloomberg Philanthropies, Coutts, John Lewis & Partners, Waitrose & Partners, Rentokil Initial, Coupa, Regatta and Craghoppers, Bridgepoint, Howdens, Johnnie Walker, McDonald's UK & Ireland. Bags of Ethics by Supreme Creations and Bollinger** are Official Supporters.

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.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/about-us/qgc-friends-network/>

QGC social media channels

Instagram: @queensgreencanopy

Twitter: @QGCcanopy

Facebook: @queensgreencanopy

LinkedIn: @queensgreencanopy

Hashtags: #queensgreencanopy #thequeen #treesinmemoriam

Notes to editors

Media are invited to attend the tree gifting ceremony at The Royal Hospital Chelsea on Monday 3 October 2022.

Attendees are asked to arrive at 930am, ahead of the ceremony which starts at 10am.

Please contact marnie.gaffney@queensgreencanopy to arrange accreditation.

Media Contact

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