



**\*\* UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 0001 BST SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2023 \*\***

## **OVER THREE MILLION TREES PLANTED IN MEMORY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH**

- *The King and The Prince of Wales plant one of the final trees as The Queen's Green Canopy Platinum Jubilee project comes to an end*
- *The King thanks the nation for creating a living legacy of over three million trees planted to honour Queen Elizabeth*
- *A celebratory film narrated by QGC Ambassador Dame Judi Dench is released, alongside a mosaic artwork inspired by the widespread participation in the initiative*

His Majesty The King and The Prince of Wales have planted an acer tree in the gardens of Sandringham House to mark the end of The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative. As Prince of Wales, His Majesty The King became Patron of the QGC in May 2021.

In a message to the nation, His Majesty thanked people from across the United Kingdom who came together to create an inspiring living legacy of **over three million trees** planted in Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth's name, to benefit future generations. The King said:

*It is hard to believe that two years have passed since my mother and I planted a tree in Windsor Great Park to mark the commencement of The Queen's Green Canopy. As the second planting season draws to a close, and with it this vitally important initiative, I particularly wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone from across the United Kingdom who has helped to plant over three million trees to create an enduring legacy in Queen Elizabeth's name.*

*This project has shown how simple, practical and positive gestures can make a big difference, and I can think of no more fitting tribute to Her late Majesty's seventy-year reign.*

**CHARLES R.**

Similar to the photograph released in support of the launch of The Queen's Green Canopy in May 2021, a photograph of His Majesty The King and The Prince of Wales with the tree, which was planted in January, has been released to conclude the QGC initiative.

Alongside the photograph, an inspiring film narrated by QGC Ambassador Dame Judi Dench has been released to showcase the dynamic way in which the initiative has united the nation behind a common goal – to plant trees. The film tells the story of the QGC through the prism of people from all generations and walks of life who got involved in tree planting as part of this inclusive and joyful project.

Also, in celebration of the widespread community participation in the initiative, a unique mosaic artwork has been created in the form of a green canopy depicting Queen Elizabeth's

cypher, EIRR. The mosaic is formed of thousands of images of people with their jubilee and memorial trees planted for Queen Elizabeth which were uploaded to the interactive QGC Map.

With thanks to our generous supporters, The Queen's Green Canopy is proud to announce three key legacy initiatives including:

- **Coronation Trees** - To mark the coronation of His Majesty The King, the QGC will fund the planting of a beautiful specimen tree in each of the 98 Lieutenancies across the UK. The trees will be planted during the forthcoming season, from October 2023.
- **DofE Gold Awards** – To help young people get involved in tree planting, a pilot project has been created through a new partnership between The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV).
- **QGC Delivery Partners** – In recognition of the support which was central to delivering tree planting projects across the nation, funding from "The Queen's Green Canopy" book will be gifted to our Partners including The Conservation Volunteers, Trees for Cities and The Tree Council.

The Queen's Green Canopy is grateful to all the people who participated in the project, alongside our Partners and network of tree planting organisations who helped to achieve these extraordinary outcomes. Although the planting project has concluded, the trees will be well cared for through our network and will continue to prosper for decades to come.

### **Key achievements – The Queen's Green Canopy**

- **Tree planting:** A living legacy of over three million trees planted across the UK in honour of Queen Elizabeth
- **Urban Greening:** Delivery of over 30 special urban planting projects in areas of social and environmental need in all four nations
- **Conservation:** The celebration of an Ancient Canopy dedicated to Queen Elizabeth, to raise awareness of the nation's precious Ancient Woodlands and Trees
- **Green Skilling:** Over 70 young people supported through pilot programmes to achieve experience in the green sector and awards in Community Forestry. Over 7,000 children have completed the QGC edition of the RFS Junior Forester Award.
- **Environmental and social impact:** Demonstrated the galvanising effect of tree planting through grassroots-led activities involving diverse communities and people of all ages and walks of life

### **Timeline – The Queen's Green Canopy**

**May 2021:** The Queen's Green Canopy is launched by Queen Elizabeth and the then Prince of Wales as Patron. A Jubilee tree was planted at Windsor Castle during the planting season in March, with a picture released to mark the launch at the virtual RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

**June – August 2021:** People across the UK begin planning their tree planting projects, ahead of the Autumn.

**September 2021:** Ambassador Dame Judi Dench launches the QGC Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show and marks a two-week countdown to the start of the planting season.

**October 2021:** Queen Elizabeth and the then Prince of Wales mark the start of the planting season by planting a tree in the grounds of Balmoral Castle with local school children.

**November 2021:** Widespread tree planting takes place in schools and communities across the nation with help from QGC Partners, and a green canopy comes to life on the QGC Map.

**January 2022:** The Royal Mint announces the gifting of commemorative coins to the first 7,000 children who complete the Platinum Jubilee edition of the RFS Junior Forester Award.

**March 2022:** To mark the end of the first tree planting season, Queen Elizabeth sends a message to thank people who have planted trees in her name, and a tree is planted in the Buckingham Palace Garden by The Countess of Wessex and QGC Junior Foresters.

**May 2022:** The then Prince of Wales unveils the 70 Ancient Trees and 70 Ancient Woodlands dedicated to Queen Elizabeth in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee.

**June 2022:** During the Jubilee celebrations, the QGC “Tree of Trees” stood tall outside Buckingham Palace as a message of hope and regeneration. As the Principal Beacon, the tree was illuminated in a dual ceremony by Queen Elizabeth and the then Duke of Cambridge.

**September 2022:** Following the passing of Queen Elizabeth, the QGC is extended to March 2023 give people an opportunity to plant in memoriam.

**October 2022:** An inspiring group of charities and communities gather at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to receive trees from the QGC “Tree of Trees”.

**November 2022:** His Majesty The King plants a tree in the Buckingham Palace Garden during the COP27 Reception.

**December 2022:** A public exhibition featuring artworks of the Ancient Canopy takes place at Sotheby’s, followed by a charity auction. The Queen’s Green Canopy book is announced.

**March 2023:** A tree is planted in Richmond Park by QGC Ambassador Sir David Attenborough who said: “The Queen’s Green Canopy has created an invaluable national legacy for our children, future generations and the planet itself.”

### **Background - The Queen’s Green Canopy**

The Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee. Following the wishes of our Patron,

His Majesty The King, the QGC initiative was extended 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 2022 – the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the UK is from October to March, the initiative was extended to include the full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022 and concluding in March 2023.

An interactive QGC map was created to showcase the planting projects across the United Kingdom and inspire people to get involved. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the QGC dedicated a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands and 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](http://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, the QGC 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/>

### **Social media channels**

*Instagram: @queensgreencanopy / @theroyalfamily / @princeandprincessofwales*

*Twitter: @QGCAnopy / @RoyalFamily / @KensingtonRoyal*

*Facebook: @queensgreencanopy / @TheRoyalFamilyChannel*

*LinkedIn: @queensgreencanopy*

With thanks to the following agencies who have been involved in creating the celebration film, the mosaic artwork and interactive QGC Map.

- Studio Certain: <https://www.studiocertain.com/>
- The People's Picture: <https://thepeoplespicture.com/>
- Pixeled Eggs and GGMR: <https://www.pixeledeggs.com/> <https://www.ggmr.co.uk/>

### **Notes to Editors**

**The following material will be released under strict embargo for 0001 Sunday 2 April 2023.**

1. A photograph of The King and The Prince of Wales is available on Getty Images via the Royal Rota system. All terms must be adhered to. Please note the credit to Chris Jackson / Getty Images. The image is embargoed until 0001 BST Sunday, 2 April 2023. For any queries on the photograph please contact: [rebekah.seymour@gettyimages.com](mailto:rebekah.seymour@gettyimages.com)
2. A celebratory film telling the story of The Queen's Green Canopy, narrated by QGC Ambassador Dame Judi Dench. Provided under strict embargo for 0001 BST Sunday, 2 April 2023, the film is available through the Royal Rota organisations.
3. An image of the mosaic artwork in the form of a green canopy depicting the late Queen Elizabeth's cypher. Please note this artwork must be credited to The People's Picture for The Queen's Green Canopy. Provided under strict embargo for 0001 BST Sunday, 2 April 2023, the image is available through the Press Association.

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