

PRESS RELEASE: Community comes together for Jubilee tree planting in Brighton

Forgotten Places: Greening Coastal Towns and Cities

A tree planting ceremony and community event in Brighton has marked The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The event on Thursday, February 24, was organised by Bristol Estate Leaseholders & Tenants Association (BELTA), supported by CPRE Sussex, Trees for Cities and Brighton & Hove City Council.

It was held in support of The Queen's Green Canopy – an initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee by inviting people from across the UK to 'Plant A Tree for the Jubilee'.

Juliet Smith, The Queen's Deputy Lord Lieutenant, officially opened Thursday's event.

BELTA trustee Ben D'Montigny said: "Despite the weather going from brilliant sunshine, rain and even hail, it was a really positive day for residents and various groups to get together to participate in our ceremonial tree planting.

"It was one of our first events following the pandemic, and it was a treat to welcome everyone face-to-face to show some of the other projects BELTA has been working on for residents.

"It was especially exciting to see Deputy Lord Lieutenant Juliet Smith come along and speak in celebration of The Platinum Jubilee."

Thursday's tree planting represented the hard work of all involved to help beautify and naturalise the Bristol Estate.

More trees will be planted on the estate later this year.

CPRE Sussex Director, Brian Kilkelly said: "It was fantastic to be part of this event, celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and recognising the importance of trees to the city of Brighton.

"At CPRE Sussex we believe urban trees are vital to improving health and wellbeing. I look forward to many more successful tree plantings over the next few months."

The Bristol Estate planting is part of a wider programme taking place across Brighton & Hove for the Trees for Cities' Forgotten Places project.

Kate Sheldon, deputy chief executive at Trees for Cities, said: "We are proud to partner with CPRE Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Council to plant beautiful new trees on the Bristol Estate, which will bring a multitude of benefits for local residents.

"Through the Forgotten Places project we hope to inspire and enable new generations to plant and care for trees in Brighton and other coastal towns and cities, restoring the natural heritage to create greener, happier, and healthier places to live."

In 2021, CPRE Sussex's Plant your Postcode volunteers, supported by Brighton & Hove City Council's Arboriculture team and Hove Civic Society, made a successful bid to take part in Forgotten Places.

In total, the project will see £1.2m of funding to plant 55,000 trees across seven coastal towns and cities. Funding was developed by Defra as part of the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

Trees for Cities is working with the Field Studies Council, Treeconomics, Forest Research and local partners to deliver this project. The project is also part of The Queen's Green Canopy.

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities contact sheena.journalism@gmail.com.

Notes for editors:

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is the local branch of CPRE, working for a countryside that's rich in nature, accessible to everyone and responding to the climate emergency. We want sustainable, vibrant communities in the Sussex countryside. We believe that good land-use planning is the unsung hero of environmental protection. It can help slow the growth in road traffic, encourage urban regeneration, curb urban sprawl, protect the beauty and tranquillity of the countryside and safeguard wildlife habitats.

About Defra – Green Recovery Challenge Fund

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is supported using public funds and delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency. This project is funded by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

About Trees for Cities

Trees for Cities is the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. We get stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy food.

About the Field Studies Council

Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity committed to helping people, discover, explore, understand and be inspired by the natural world. Its network of centres provides day and residential courses for all ages from young children to retired adults from schools and communities throughout the UK. They also run a range of natural history courses both online and across the UK to encourage adults to take their first steps and continue their learning in the environmental sector. It also reaches many others through its publications and community-based programmes and is the leading UK provider of identification guides.

About Treeconomics

Treeconomics works to understand how trees improve our urban spaces, making them better places to live. We aim to demonstrate that trees are part of the solution for many of our urban problems – be that air pollution, climate adaptation, crime, or manifold others. With towns and cities housing the largest populations of people, our Urban Forests hold the greatest potential to improve health and wellbeing, and stand at the frontline against Climate Change.

About Forest Research

Forest Research is Great Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree-related research and is internationally renowned for the provision of evidence and scientific services in support of sustainable forestry.

About 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 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.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>



The countryside charity
Sussex



Green Recovery Challenge Fund



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