**PRESS RELEASE: Tree planting brings back fond memories for Portslade resident**

***Forgotten Places: Greening Coastal Towns and Cities***

A long-term Portslade resident has helped to plant trees on the green opposite her home of more than 70 years.

Audrey Bromley, 92, took part in a community tree planting in Stonery Close, Portslade, on Thursday (March 24).

The event was organised by CPRE Sussex and supported by Brighton & Hove City Council as part of the Forgotten Places project.

Audrey’s daughter Sharon Dowds said: “What a great opportunity for my 92-year-old mum to help with the planting of trees on the green opposite where she has lived for 70 years.

“It certainly made her day as she reminisced of all the fun times she and her family have enjoyed over those years – my brothers playing football endlessly on the green, birthday picnics, celebrations shared with the local community.

“It is as important now as it was when l was growing up to have areas in which youngsters can play, climb trees, gather and play games, so it is lovely to see groups, such as CPRE Sussex, continuing to support, maintain and develop these areas for the benefit of the community.

“I was as proud as my mum to know and see that people do care about the local environment.”

Thursday saw two Turkish hazel planted to join two others which had gone in earlier in the year.

The trees will help to replace diseased elms which recently had to be removed from the area.

Jenni Cresswell from CPRE Sussex said: “This marks the very last planting for the Forgotten Places project which we got done super quick in the blazing sunshine. It was a wonderful note to end this fantastic project on.”

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, run by Trees for Cities, 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, and local residents will get the chance to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by inviting people to ‘Plant a Tree for the Jubilee’.

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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/

