



PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Mike Bray, The Mersey Forest Team
Tel: 01925 859 611 / 07770 735 755
Email: michaelbray@merseyforest.org.uk

NEW 'FRIENDS OF GRIFFIN WOOD' COMMUNITY GROUP HITS THE GROUND SOWING

Exciting times continue at Griffin Wood, St Helens' newest woodland, with the announcement that a new volunteer community group has been formed to work alongside The Mersey Forest Team to develop the site. The enthusiastic band of local residents and conservationists are wasting no time and have immediately sprung into action to invite nature lovers to their first event at the Wood, a wildflower sowing morning to be held on Sunday (13th May).

Mrs Williams, member of the newly formed Friends of Griffin Wood, says: "Sunday should be a great day so why not come along and help sow wildflowers to add a splash of colour to the wood in time for summer?"

The event runs from 10am until noon at the woodland, which is located at the bottom of Hall Lane, off Gorsey Lane between Clockface and Burtonwood. There is no car parking allowed on Hall Lane but parking is available at Clockface Country Park, a 15 minute walk from Griffin Wood. Attendees are advised to wear wellies or other suitable footwear as conditions may be muddy.

Paul Nolan, Director of The Mersey Forest, said: "The formation of the new group is a fantastic landmark in the development of Griffin Wood. Giving communities a real say in

their local environment is a key aim of The Mersey Forest, and I'd encourage as many people as possible to support the group's debut event."

To find out more about the group and how you can get involved, call Mac Carding at The Mersey Forest Team on 01925 816 217 or come along on the day. For more information on Griffin Wood or to sign up for the woodland's mailing list visit www.griffinwood.blogspot.com.

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Editors Notes:

The Mersey Forest:

The Mersey Forest is the leading environmental regeneration initiative in the North West and the largest of England's 12 Community Forests. The Mersey Forest is not restricted to a single site, rather it is being created across a 465 square mile area of Merseyside and North Cheshire as networks of woodlands and other habitat between and within our cities, towns and villages for - and with the involvement of - local communities. The regeneration of The Forest is driven by The Mersey Forest Partnership, which includes the Forestry Commission, Natural England and nine local authorities – Cheshire, Liverpool, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton, Vale Royal and Warrington. The Mersey Forest is the key driver for investment into and for the development of a green infrastructure for the North West, reclaiming over 8000 hectares of land, home to 1.6million people, over a 30-year period to bring revolutionary economic, social and environmental benefit to the region.