



PRESS RELEASE

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ST HELENS RESIDENTS INVITED TO DIG IN AT GRIFFIN WOOD

Families and nature-lovers are invited to take part in the development of a new woodland shooting up in south St Helens next week (21st and 25th March) at a pair of community tree planting days.

Griffin Wood is a new community woodland taking shape on Hall Lane, off Gorse Lane between Clockface and Burtonwood. Following consultation with the local community over the autumn to develop the plans for the site, work to make the woodland a reality has now begun, with ponds being dug and the first batch of trees planted. The Mersey Forest Team are inviting all those who have been involved so far, as well as newcomers interested in the project, to come and see the progress made and play their very own part.

"Local residents and nature enthusiasts played an important role in the planning of the woodland over the autumn, supplying us with their ideas and visions for the development of the site," explains Paul Nolan, Director of The Mersey Forest. "Now we're inviting people to come and roll up their sleeves at this next exciting stage in the story."

The tree planting days run from 10.30am to 3.30pm on both Wednesday 21st March and Sunday 25th March 2007. Tools will be supplied, but please wear Wellington boots and gloves. Please note that the nearest parking is at Clockface Country Park carpark, from where you can walk to Griffin Wood following signs (20 minute walk). If you would like to attend but have restricted mobility, please contact The Mersey Forest Team on 01925 816217.

As well as the planting days, two further meetings are also being held for those interested in becoming part of a regular woodland group. The group will be supported by The Mersey Forest and will meet to carry out conservation work and to plan development work at Griffin Wood and at other woodlands near to Sutton Leach and Clock Face. To find out more, come along to Chester Lane Community Centre, Fouracre Lane, on Monday 16th April at 7.30pm or on Thursday 26th April at 7.30pm.

For more information on Griffin Wood visit the woodland online at 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 420 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.