



PRESS RELEASE

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SCOUTS ROOT OUT FORESTER BADGES

If you go down to the woods today, be sure to take a member of Birchwood's 12th Warrington East Scout Group! The tree-savvy youngsters have been receiving expert tips on woodland management from environmental regeneration initiative The Mersey Forest and have now scooped their sought after forester badge.

The two dozen scouts, aged 10 to 14, visited new local beauty spot Griffin Wood with Director of The Mersey Forest, Paul Nolan, to observe a woodland in the making and learn the tricks of the trade.

"It was a brill day," said potential forester-to-be Michael, with his fellow scout Mathew adding, "Seeing the big tree cut down was spectacular!"

The group also got their chance to get stuck in themselves when they rolled up their sleeves to each plant a young tree, one of the six essential requirements for attaining the forester badge.

Jon Davies, Scout Leader with the group, said: "The scouts have had a great opportunity to learn at first hand about the importance of woodland management. They will look back at Griffin Wood in years to come and say, 'I helped to plant some of those trees'. Learning about our environment and what we can do to help is so very important, and the forester badge was an added incentive."

Paul Nolan, Director of The Mersey Forest, said: “It’s excellent to see youngsters out and engaging with their woodlands. The scouts especially enjoyed watching the chainsaw in action, and who knows perhaps one of them will grow up to be a forester of the future.”

To find out more about your child joining 12th Warrington East Scout Group or any other Scout Group, call Christine Taylor on 01925 451977. To learn more about Griffin Wood, 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.