



PRESS RELEASE WITH ONLINE PHOTOS:

Photos at: www.merseyforest.org.uk/photos/mesnespark1.JPG
www.merseyforest.org.uk/photos/mesnespark2.JPG
www.merseyforest.org.uk/photos/mesnesparkportrait.JPG

Ref MB62

Today's Date: 15/01/2009
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NEW COMMUNITY ORCHARD AT MESNES PARK THANKS TO STUDENTS, RANGERS AND LOCAL BUSINESS

Students from Wargrave House School have created a new community orchard at Mesnes Park for all to enjoy, with the trees funded by a local company keen to help improve the environment.

The students from 'Lakeside', the Further Education department at Wargrave House School, worked with St.Helens Council ranger service to plant the apple, damson and cherry trees for the orchard as part of creating The Mersey Forest, the growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Wargrave House School has worked with the rangers on a number of projects over the years on many sites throughout St.Helens, with the students enjoying getting stuck in to some hard outdoors work.

The trees were funded by Westbrook-based vehicle leasing company Star Lease Ltd, and are the first fruits of the firm's new partnership with The Mersey Forest to plant a tree in the local area for every contract that the firm secures.

Star Lease Director, Nick Hughes, said: "As someone with young children, I want the company to play its part in providing a better local environment for young people to grow up in. Our partnership with The Mersey Forest lets us achieve this as well as enabling us to set a standard that we hope others in our industry will follow."

Jo Sayers of The Mersey Forest Team, said: "It's great to see schools and businesses from the area working together to create new green spaces for the whole community to enjoy. It's the kind of project that sums up exactly what creating The Mersey Forest is all about."

In addition to its new tree planting partnership, Star Lease is also promoting a range of low emissions vehicles to its customers, as well as linking in with government schemes to champion efficient driving tips to help minimise the amount of fuel we use. The company is also keen to emphasise that car use should be just one of our options when it comes to planning our journeys.

To read more and find out how you can contribute to greener transport choices, visit the Carbon Footprint page at www.starlease.co.uk.

Photos and captions:

www.merseyforest.org.uk/photos/mesnespark1.JPG

Back: St.Helens Council rangers Bernard Day and Tracey Sherer. Front: Further Education students from Wargrave House with Star Lease's Nick and Amanda Hughes.

www.merseyforest.org.uk/photos/mesnespark2.JPG

Further Education students from Wargrave House with Star Lease's Nick and Amanda Hughes.

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Star Lease's Nick and Amanda Hughes with Further Education students from Wargrave House.

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Editors Notes:

The Mersey Forest is the largest of England's 12 Community Forests and one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West. 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, United Utilities 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.