



## PRESS RELEASE

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# New woodland for Haydock school

Pupils from Haydock English Martyrs Catholic Primary School helped plant a brand new woodland in their school grounds to kick off St.Helens' role in The Big Tree Plant, the national campaign to get more people planting and caring for trees.

Locally the campaign has set aside £255,000 over the next four years to support tree planting and get people involved in their environment across North Cheshire and Merseyside. The funding for the local area was secured by The Mersey Forest who will use the cash to help community groups and schools to brighten their neighbourhoods with new street trees, woodlands and mini-orchards – starting with more than a thousand trees to be planted across St.Helens this winter.

Three classes from English Martyrs worked with The Mersey Forest to plant willows and hazels that can be coppiced and used in the future for weaving projects. The young participants also dug large pits for the roots of five young oak trees and Scots pines. The Mersey Forest also donated several black poplar trees which have been nurtured in their tree nursery at Griffin Wood, off Gorsey Lane near Clock Face.

“It was a wonderful experience for the children, as well as a great way to teach them to love the environment,” explains Karen Prescott, Head Teacher. “They kept telling us how much they loved it, and asking whether there were any more trees to plant!”

Helen Collins, from The Mersey Forest, said “It was great to see the students getting involved. They worked for over an hour to dig the pits for the bigger trees, and got covered in mud, but weren't discouraged at all. They seemed to love it! They will be the ones enjoying the outcome of all of this hard work: a great new woodland.”

The project to create the new woodland at the school was co-funded by The Woodland Trust through their MOREwoods project and by the St.Helens Landscape Fund,

available as a result of the new West East Link Pipeline being provided by United Utilities.

## **ENDS**

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### **Notes to editors:**

#### **The Big Tree Plant**

1. The Big Tree Plant is a national campaign that helps people and communities across England to plant more trees where they live and work. Our target is to plant 1 million additional trees by April 2015.
2. Details of the campaign can be found at: [www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant](http://www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant)
3. Details on how community groups can apply for funding can be found at: <http://thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/funding>
4. The Mersey Forest funding was applied for through Community Forests Northwest, the charity that supports The Mersey Forest, Pennine Edge Forest and Red Rose Forest - the latter of which has also been offered an additional £184,000 for tree planting in Greater Manchester.
5. The campaign has the support of major bodies, environmental charities and agencies including National Forest Company, The Tree Council, Trees for Cities, the Woodland Trust, England's Community Forests, Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV, Civic Voice, Groundwork, Natural England, Mayor of London, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Authority and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

#### **St.Helens Landscape Fund**

This Section 106 fund allows people to apply for funding for landscape enhancement and community infrastructure projects in the area of St.Helens marked on this [map](#). The fund is available as a result of the new [West East Link Pipeline](#) being provided by United Utilities. [www.sthelenslandscapefund.co.uk](http://www.sthelenslandscapefund.co.uk)

#### **The Mersey Forest**

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' for 20 years.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West.

Through community and partnership working, we have planted more than 8 million trees - equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area.

The Forest helps our towns and cities adapt to climate change and has won the Brian Redhead Award for Environmental Sustainability, creates woodlands that 20% of local people visit at least once a week, and by improving the image of our towns and cities sets the scene for growth within the region's £98 billion economy.

We achieve all of this and more through our partnership of local authorities, landowners, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and businesses including United Utilities.

[www.merseyforest.org.uk](http://www.merseyforest.org.uk)