



PRESS RELEASE

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Toxteth's streets will be full of apples!

Pupils from Kingsley Community Primary School helped local organisation Growing Granby to plant the first apple trees of the innovative Granby Apple Orchard, being created at sites across the neighbourhood.

Local children from Toxteth became the youngest members of Growing Granby after contributing to the planting of apple trees in the area. This is part of the organisation's plan to grow Granby Apple Orchard in derelict parts of the area, as well as in community group open spaces and interested residents' gardens.

The team pushed wheelbarrows full of the young trees to various spaces in the area including St Clement field behind the church on Beaumont Street and the Pakistan Association at Mulgrave Youth and Community Centre garden and then helped them plant their new trees.

The trees were grafted 18 months ago by Growing Granby volunteers and 20 locally grown apple trees were also donated to the scheme by The Mersey Forest as part of The Big Tree Plant, a national campaign that aims to encourage people to plant more trees in their local environment. Later in the day, the children were treated to an "apple party" helped by the South Central Play Team, a part of Liverpool Youth and Play Service, who have been working alongside Growing Granby to include the local children in activities based around the up and coming apple orchard. The children enjoyed slices of apple pie, after they had planted their own trees in their school grounds.

"It is wonderful to see how young members of our local community are so devoted to their local environment. Their energy and dedication is truly inspiring!" said Jean Grant, Committee Member of Growing Granby.

Helen Collins from The Mersey Forest said: “Today’s event shows what an amazing difference a small group of children can make. We have shared out trees that have been nurtured and grown by local people, with the aim of bringing greenery and wildlife to the streets of Toxteth and hopefully tasty apples for local residents in the future!”

Andy Parkinson of the Liverpool Adult Learning Service said: “Hearing about the orchard planting was really good news! It will make a real difference to the area and the local residents to have something like this to work with.”

During the planting period (December – March) the group will continue to plant over 100 apple trees grafted in March 2010. Growing Granby is open to all residents within walking distance of Granby Street who want to see the derelict spaces around them become more fertile for wildlife and who share a long term commitment to improving their local environment. You can find out more about Growing Granby by visiting www.growinggranby.co.uk or calling 07543 145 176 or get involved at www.projectdirtliverpool.com.

People interested in getting involved in The Big Tree Plant can call The Mersey Forest on 01925 816217, email mail@merseyforest.org.uk or visit the national website www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant.

Caption: Kingsley Community Primary School children get involved in The Big Tree Plant.

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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
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.

Growing Granby:

Growing Granby is a group of residents wishing to improve the area by planting and encouraging growing everywhere from a window sill to the derelict sites that surround us. We encourage volunteers to help with planting and developing our site on Kingsley Road and offer friendly support, planning workshops and trips to learn more about sustainable gardening.

To contact Growing Granby:

Web: www.growinggranby.co.uk

Email: growinggranby@gmail.com

Tel: 07543 145 176

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