



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Ref MB53

**Today's Date:** 15/08/2008  
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## **NORTON PRIORY ECO-BUILDING NOW OPEN**

Norton Priory's new eco-building is now available for all to enjoy after being officially opened by the family of Gwen Walker, the Priory's late Community & Education Officer to whom the new building is dedicated.

The sustainable straw bale building is fitted with solar panels and much of the building has been constructed from local sources, including timber from nearby Big Wood. A team of volunteers helped to complete the building, employing traditional techniques including clay and lime rendering. The finished building will now be used for community meetings and as an education centre, with bookings now being taken.

With the help of environmental regeneration initiative The Mersey Forest, the eco-building has received £4000 funding through the Landfill Communities Fund from Runcorn-based chemical manufacturer INEOS ChlorVinyls, in addition to support from Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN).

INEOS ChlorVinyls' Janet Ward said: "This new building will add to the diversity of educational provision at Norton Priory and will provide an excellent meeting

place for community organisations. We are delighted to support such an innovative environmentally friendly project.”

The Mersey Forest’s Jo Sayers said: “The new centre has been built by the community, for the community, and I’m sure it will prove to be a big success among groups in the area.”

To find out about using the new education centre, contact Paul Quigley at Norton Priory on 01928 565029 or visit [www.nortonpriory.org](http://www.nortonpriory.org).

## **ENDS**

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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.