



Christmas

morefromtrees

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year
from The Mersey Forest Team

Winter 2011



Season's greetings one and all



Merry Christmas and welcome to this festive *more from trees*. Read on for news of a busy start to The Big Tree Plant, a refresh of our guiding Forest Plan, and details of how to recycle your Christmas tree.

We hope that you have a good break, and see you in 2012.

The Mersey Forest Team

Plant your own tree this winter

Want to get involved in The Big Tree Plant? Learn how to plant and care for trees with the new edition of our popular tree planting guide.

HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR TREES

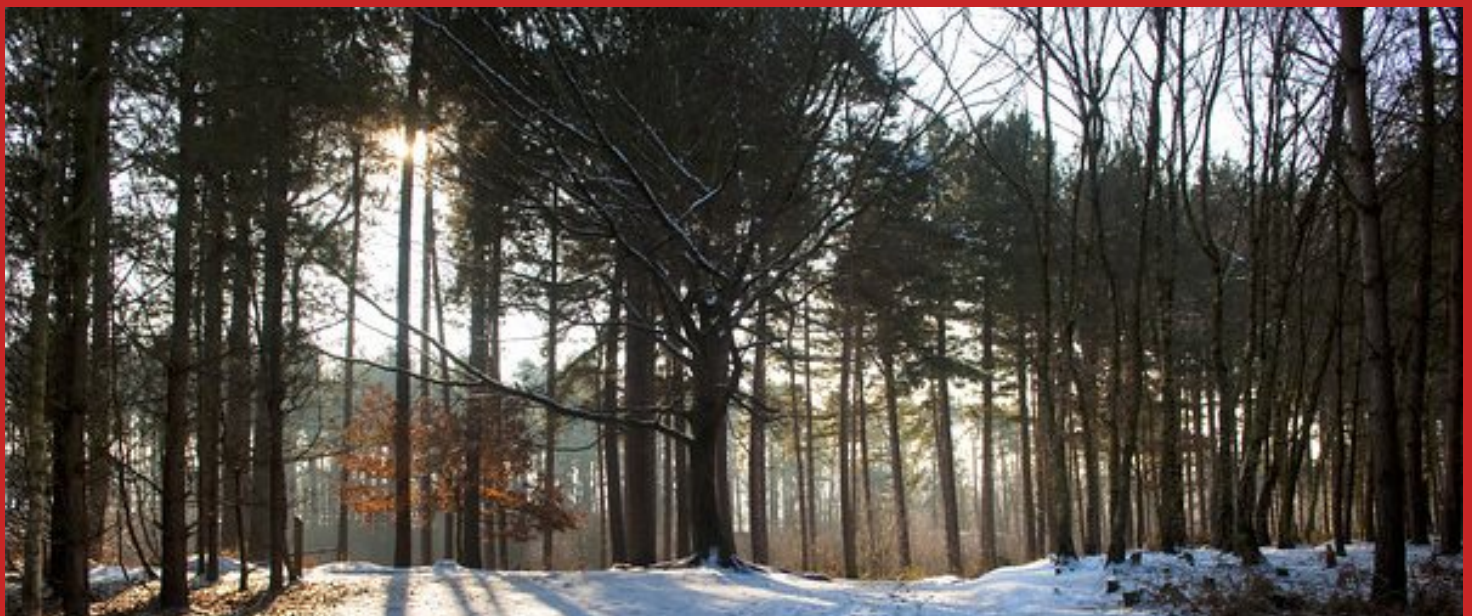
The Mersey Forest guide



Download your copy

www.merseyforest.org.uk/howtoguides/plantandcarefortrees.pdf

Print copies are also available to individuals and community groups in Merseyside and North Cheshire.



The Big Tree Plant is go!



The Mersey Forest's part in the national Big Tree Plant campaign has got off to a great start in recent weeks with a series of community tree planting events that are already making a difference in school grounds, parks, community centres and woodlands across the Forest area.

£255,000 funding secured

The Big Tree Plant has set aside £255,000 over the next four years for The Mersey Forest to plant trees and create mini-woodlands with Merseyside and Cheshire communities, beginning with 120 projects this winter that will see 18,000 trees planted.

Success stories so far

Kicking things off, volunteers from Marston's Lion Salt Works and wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation dug in at a planting

morning to help complete the Salt Works' newly created butterfly garden.

Meanwhile at Northwood green space in Knowsley, pupils from Northwood Community Primary School planted saplings to enhance the site's woodland area, where they will soon be able to enjoy "Forest School" lessons in the great outdoors.

Elsewhere in the Forest, in Liverpool school children teamed up with community organisation Growing Granby and The Mersey Forest to plant the first trees of a neighbourhood orchard, and in Warrington the revamp of Euclid Park was also rounded off with new fruit trees.

In Halton, Sandymoor Parish Council received more than 50 large trees, and in St.Helens,

pupils from Haydock English Martyrs Catholic Primary School helped plant a brand new woodland in their school grounds. In Sefton, another Forest Schools project saw parents and pupils from Norwood Primary enjoy a tree planting day for all the family to further improve the school's woodland areas.

Further funding

Many of the projects were co-funded by The Woodland Trust through their MOREwoods project.

Keep up to date with campaign

Follow the latest news about The Big Tree Plant in Merseyside and Cheshire on The Mersey Forest Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/merseyforest.

Left and centre photos: McCoy Wynne.

Refreshing The Mersey Forest Plan



A decade on from its previous update, we are working with partners and the community to refresh the long-term Forest Plan that guides the creation of The Mersey Forest.

Government-approved

The government-approved plan was launched in 1994 as the long-term vision and roadmap for creating the Forest, and is signed up to by the Forest's local authority partners as well as the Forestry Commission and Natural England. The Forest Plan was last updated in 2001.

Consulting the community

To begin the refresh, members of the public have been asked for their views on why local woods are important to them. A mini-website (www.merseyforest.org.uk/views) was created and a competition launched with a free Christmas tree and Land Rover safari at Delamere Forest up for grabs for the author of the best comment.

Local walkers, nature lovers, teachers, joggers and families proceeded to submit a stream of thoughtful and illuminating opinions and anecdotes, all of which can be read on the website's comments wall.

The winning comment was submitted by Nicola Ralph, who wrote:

"I am always going for long walks through woodland areas, sometimes alone but often with my 7yr old daughter. I love the quiet and having the opportunity of seeing our wonderful wildlife, especially the types of birds that are not seen near busy streets and roads. I love educating my daughter on what we see and she has learnt to have respect for her environment."

Further submissions are still welcome, so if you've yet to have your say, visit the mini-website.

Consulting partners Meanwhile The Mersey Forest Team has also been busy arranging and holding meetings with local authority partners, the Forestry Commission and Natural England to make sure their input into the refresh is built in from the start.

Next steps

After Christmas, the remaining partner meetings will be held, and a draft of the refreshed plan will be created. This draft will be made available for public consultation, where comments from all will be welcomed, in the build-up to the launch of the refreshed Forest Plan.

The refresh of the Forest Plan forms part of The Mersey Forest's work on the Green Infrastructure for Tomorrow - Together! project. This EU Interreg funded project involves partners in the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands sharing approaches and developing best practice between 2011 and 2014.

Next chapter of woodlands debate



Read the report at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/files/Independent-Panel-on-Forestry-Progress-Report.pdf>

Following last winter's forestry outcry, the government-appointed Independent Panel last week released its interim Progress Report. The report follows a huge outpouring of feedback which saw 42,000 responses to the Panel's call for views.

The Panel's chair, The Right Reverend James Jones Bishop of Liverpool, said: *"Although our Panel was born out of fierce debate over the future of the public forest estate, what has become apparent through our work so far is that we must look at the future of all woods and forests, not just the one fifth managed by the Forestry Commission."*

In June 2011, The Mersey Forest and partners took the Bishop to see a brand new community woodland in action and to talk to local residents who have

benefited from the project. One year on from being planted, Mab Lane Community Woodland has been named as Merseyside's Neighbourhood Improvement Project of the year and been proclaimed "a brilliant idea" by local residents who say it has "really changed the area".

As part of his visit to the woodland, the Bishop heard from members of the local community about the difference that the woodland had made to the area, with local resident Tony Beyga commenting:

"Bishop Jones appeared very impressed with the woodlands and listened to everyone's point of view and took on board all the comments and feedback. We hope he took away a positive impression and he could clearly see the amount of hard work and effort that has gone into making

the woodland a very valuable community resource."

Meeting with the panel

The Mab Lane visit was followed in November with an invitation to Director of The Mersey Forest Paul Nolan to meet the Panel to discuss community forestry in his capacity as chair of England's Community Forests. The Panel tweeted following the meeting that it was an "informative discussion".

Recommendations to follow

The Panel says it is working towards recommendations that will increase the benefits generated from all forests in England, including to the people that enjoy them, to nature and to the businesses that rely on them. The recommendations will be made in their final report to Government in spring 2012.

How to recycle your real Christmas tree in each local authority within The Mersey Forest

CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER

Christmas trees can be recycled at any household waste recycling centre in Cheshire West and Chester, with details available on the Council website.

HALTON

Real Christmas trees in Halton can be recycled at:

Recycling & Household Waste Centre, Johnsons Lane, Widnes, WA8 0SJ
- tel: 0151 495 1251

Recycling & Household Waste Centre, Picow Farm Road, Runcorn, WA7 4UB
- tel: 01928 591082

The Christmas trees can be recycled in the Green Waste skips which are then sent for recycling into compost. The sites are open every day except Christmas Day from 8am to 6pm.

For further details please call the Contact Centre on 0151 907 8300.

KNOWSLEY

During the first week of January (between 10am and 4pm) you can leave your real Christmas tree at:

Halewood Park, Okell Drive, Halewood
Stadt Moers Park, Pottery Lane, Whiston
Millbrook Park Millennium Green, Old Hall Lane, Kirkby
Court Hey Car Park, Roby Road, Huyton
Holy Family Social Club, Hall Lane, Cronton

If you require further information about the refuse and recycling service contact the Environmental Helpline on 443 2400.

LIVERPOOL

Christmas tree recycling will be available in Liverpool, with arrangements to be announced shortly. To find out more, please contact Liverpool City Council on 0151 233 3000.

SEFTON

After Christmas, Cleansing Services will collect real Christmas trees for composting. This service is available on request, for a limited period, for residents in the borough. To arrange a collection, please call Sefton Plus on 0845 140 0845. The service is strictly limited and will be operated on a first come, first served basis.

After New Year residents can also take their trees to Lifeboat Road Car Park, Formby or alternatively drop them off at Crosby Coastal Park, off Cambridge Road, Waterloo.

Residents are reminded to remove all decorations and any metal base brackets before recycling their real Christmas tree.

ST.HELENS

Real Christmas trees can be left in the marked areas at the following locations to be recycled in the week commencing Monday 2nd January 2012:

Sherdley Park
Nannygoat Park
Gaskell Park
Clinkham Wood
Fosters Park

WARRINGTON

In Warrington you can recycle your real Christmas tree at any Community Recycling Centre including:

Gatewath Community Recycling Centre, Gatewath Industrial Estate, Barnard Street, WA5 1DD

Woolston Community Recycling Centre, off New Cut Lane, Woolston, WA1 4AG

Stockton Heath Community Recycling Centre, off Sandy Lane, Stockton Heath, WA4 2AY

The community recycling centres are open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Opening times are 8am to 4pm at Stockton Heath and 8am to 6pm at Gatewath and Woolston.



Photo: McCoy Wynne

Want to know more or get involved?

Contact Paul Nolan, Director, The Mersey Forest

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**THE MERSEY
FOREST**
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