

Vale of Belvoir Lions Club Press Release –Feb 2012

On a cold and clear morning on Sunday 19th February 2012 members of the Vale of Belvoir Lions Club and family members met at the Wallenfels Play area in Bingham, Nottinghamshire. Dressed for the elements, armed with spades and with bundles of enthusiasm their goal was to plant 90 young saplings. These had been provided through the generosity of the Woodland Trust to help celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Lions Club International Foundation International President's own "one million" tree project and in memory of the immense contribution made to Lions by a founder member of the club who sadly passed away in 2011 - the late William (Bill) Brown of Bingham.

The saplings were planted on three specific areas within the play area, as identified by Bingham Town Council, where it was hoped to enhance the area for many years to come. Based on a "wildlife" theme which consisted of hawthorn, blackthorn, birch, hazel and rowan it was hoped to bring the wide range of benefits of the trees to both the local communities and wildlife as a whole. Also based in the knowledge that 2012 is a very special Jubilee Year it is really hoped that many generations to follow will benefit greatly. Additional sites are also being identified for the planting of a further 15 oak saplings including one especially grown from seed taken from one of the Royal estates.

Lions President John Ronan said: "Tree planting is a fantastic and fun way for us to do something lasting in our local area in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, our own Lions family and in recognition of Lion Bill's contribution to the local community since our clubs founding in 1979. With thanks to the Woodland Trust and Bingham Town Council we hope the planting of these trees at the will help attract wildlife and make a real difference to everyone who will see them. It's incredible to think that in just 5 years, our trees will be as tall as us.

Victoria Hodson from the Woodland Trust added: "We are delighted the Vale of Belvoir Lions are using our free tree scheme to plant more trees in the Bingham area. Communities are transforming their neighbourhoods, growing their own fruits and food, creating shade and shelter, and providing new homes for wildlife. We are still offering more free trees as part of our Jubilee Woods Project to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, and would love more communities to get involved."

This month (February) the Trust is encouraging millions of people across the UK to come together and plant one million trees in one month to celebrate 60 years since The Queen's accession to the throne. The community tree packs are part of the Trust's Jubilee Woods project, which aims to plant 6 million trees by the end of 2012. For more information visit the websites www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

and follow the 'Jubilee woods' link. With HRH The Princess Royal as patron, it is only one of a handful of projects to carry official Royal approval.

- Ends -

Notes to editors:

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The Woodland Trust now offers a range of mechanisms to inspire and enable large organisations, schools, community groups and individuals to plant trees on their own land.

The Jubilee Woods project has The Queen's support - and HRH The Princess Royal as patron. It will commemorate the 2012 Diamond Jubilee, marking Queen Elizabeth's 60th year as monarch. Next to Queen Victoria in 1897, she is the only British sovereign ever to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee. The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. It has 300,000 members and supporters. Visit www.jubileewoods.org.uk for more details.

The Trust has three key aims: i) to enable the creation of more native woods and places rich in trees ii) to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future iii) to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. Established in 1972, the Woodland Trust now has over 1,000 sites in its care covering approximately 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres). Access to its sites is free.