

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

Press contact: Naomi Betts

**For immediate release:**

## Trees honour Her Majesty's 'true service'

In ceremonies across Kent, from village green to community garden, recreation ground to cemetery, 4 Future Heritage Trees have been planted to mark **Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**.

They are part of a total of 24 'Future Heritage trees' that have been planted in commemorative ceremonies, in all 13 districts in Kent, over the last 5 years. This has been done as part of The Conservation Volunteers' (TCV), Kent Heritage Trees Project and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project, which celebrates Kent's rich tree heritage, comes to an end later this month.

Working with volunteers The Kent Heritage Trees Project has;

- Recorded more than 10,000 heritage trees (heritage trees are old, wide, rare or of historical or cultural importance).

- Planted 27,000 trees

- Led 'woodland wonders education sessions' and Action Squad sessions for schools

- Created Buggin'about, an environmental toddler group.

- Run family events

- Delivered wide ranging classes on biodiversity, photography and arts

- Created tree trails

- Planted 24 Future Heritage Trees

The planting of Future Heritage Trees demonstrates the important contribution trees make not just to our environment, but to the cultural life of our communities. It is therefore significant that the last two trees were planted on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016, **Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**, with rousing renditions of the National Anthem. The first was at Jubilee Hall and Recreation Ground, East Peckham where school children from East Peckham Primary School joined parish and borough councillors and tree and litter wardens to plant a norway maple.

The last Future Heritage Tree, planted at Hadlow cemetery in the presence of parish and borough councillors and the Hadlow Historical Society, was a most carefully selected, true service tree. The plaque, attached to a commemorative bench next to the tree, stated that the tree was planted “**to celebrate our deep gratitude for the true service of Her Majesty the Queen to her people**”.

[www.tcv.org.uk/kentheritagetrees](http://www.tcv.org.uk/kentheritagetrees) or contact the Kent Heritage Trees team on 01233 666519 or [kent-trees@tcv.org.uk](mailto:kent-trees@tcv.org.uk)

For more information

You can also follow the project on Twitter @TCV\_Kent or on Facebook

ENDS

Note to Editor

Notes to editors which our funders the Heritage Lottery Fund would like us to include in the press release

#### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) @heritagelottery

PICTURES: attached

Hadlow Cemetery tree planting with parish and borough councillors, Hadlow Historical Society, and TCV's Kent Heritage Trees Project.

For all enquires please contact Kent office on 01233 666519 or email [singleton@tcv.org.uk](mailto:singleton@tcv.org.uk)

Every day TCV works across the UK to create healthier and happier communities for everyone - communities where our activities have a lasting impact on people's health, prospects and outdoor places.

TCV works together with communities to deliver practical solutions to the real life challenges they face.

- TCV transforms people's health:** being active outdoors improves people's mental and physical well-being and brings people together
- TCV transforms peoples' prospects:** helping people get back to work and improve their economic well-being



□ **TCV transforms outdoor spaces:** empowering communities to take responsibility for improving their environment

Our vital work includes:

□ **Green Gyms:** Benefits both the health and wellbeing of participants and the people who enjoy these well-managed outdoor places in the heart of their community.

□ **Natural Talent:** Supports the development of a wide range of skills from core numeracy and literacy through to hands-on conservation experience.

□ **Community Builder:** Encourages people to take an active role in the creation and development of local outdoor spaces that reflect their community's unique needs.

We support:

□ Over **11,000** volunteers each year to face the challenges of being indoors, inactive or isolated

□ Over **130** Green Gyms to improve people's health and wellbeing

□ More than **2,000** community groups across the UK to transform outdoor spaces

□ Over **18,000** individuals each year to gain skills, qualifications and move into employment through our ETS programmes.

For over 50 years we have adapted our work with volunteers to reflect the changing needs of communities in the UK and, by giving people a sense of purpose and belonging, we have empowered them to take control of their lives and outdoor spaces for the benefit of all.

Whilst our activities vary, our inclusive approach has remained consistent; bringing people and places together to create happy, healthy and connected communities for everyone. **About The Kent Heritage Trees**

**Project**

1 - The Kent Heritage Trees Project is a five year project 83% funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project not only aims to plant 23,000 new trees but also survey & record 10,000 of Kent's heritage trees providing a better picture of some of some county's oldest trees.

As well as this the project runs a school education programme and a schedule of open and activity days across the county.