



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Making The Most Of A ‘Mast Year’ in Sherwood

Chief Executive of the Sherwood Forest Trust Charity, Patrick Candler, is a happy man. Every few years, oak trees produce a bumper crop of acorns – a natural phenomenon known as a “Mast Year.” This autumn the charity has been making the most of nature’s bounty. ‘2020 has been an awful year in many ways, but it’s been a bumper one for Sherwood Forest acorns. And we’re putting them to good use as we create our Sherwood Seed Store.’

The Trust – an independent charity based in Edwinstowe – carries out a planting programme each year with local schools, landowners and community groups, helping to increase the number of native trees in the Sherwood Forest area. One of the trees most associated with Sherwood Forest is the English oak, but it can take 2-3 years to grow saplings to a size suitable for planting out.

This year, staff of the Trust have collected 5000 acorns, with permission of landowners, from sites ranging from Newstead Abbey to Sherwood Heath. The Trust then teamed up with not-for-profit community project ‘Feel Good Gardens’, who are now helping to grow on hundreds of planted acorns - hopefully to provide a new generation of baby oaks.

Clare, of Feel Good Gardens, explains: ‘Our rented site at Forestry Holdings near Clipstone helps local people in need of therapeutic horticulture and relaxation, growing fruit, vegetables, flowers - and now trees. We’re delighted to be working with the Sherwood Forest Trust, doing our bit to tackle global warming by raising Sherwood Forest Oaks. Fingers crossed for some future funding to help us expand and develop this valuable project’.

Who knows, in a few hundred years, one or two might even grow to rival the mighty Major Oak.

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Note for Editors: more Information

The Sherwood Forest Trust (www.sherwoodforesttrust.org.uk) is a Registered Charity (1119614) whose work is entirely focussed on the former Royal Hunting Forest of Sherwood. In addition to annual tree planting and local heathland conservation projects, the Trust runs heritage projects such as the “Spirit of Wartime Sherwood” to help people unveil more of their local history. For further details, please contact Dr Patrick Candler on Patrick.candler@sherwoodforesttrust.org.uk or telephone 07876 806646.

Feel Good Gardens enable Beautiful and Productive Community Gardening - where People and Nature Meet. They can be followed via www.feelgoodgardens.org or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Feel-Good-Gardens> or via instagram <https://www.instagram.com/feelgoodgardens/>. For further details, please contact Clare Heyting on 07866 364400.





Patrick Candler and Linda Hardy of the Sherwood Forest Trust laying out 1000 of the acorns that have been planted to germinate into oak trees.