



## PRESS RELEASE

3 February 2023

### 70 trees for 70 years: The Queen's Green Canopy

Marlborough Town Councillors committed to plant 70 native trees in Marlborough's open spaces as part of the Town Council's plans for HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee year.

**On Wednesday, 1 February a brass plaque was installed to commemorate a donated Oak in Priory Gardens, and on Thursday, 2 February our team planted the last of the Queen's Green Canopy trees. We are therefore pleased to announce that all 70 trees have now been planted.**

#### Oak Tree in Priory Gardens

On 2 June 2022 Marlborough High Street was transformed into a party zone and residents came together at a street party to celebrate the Jubilee. In the afternoon our Mayor, Councillor Lisa Farrell, planted an Oak in Priory Gardens (the gardens are between Marlborough High Street and the River Kennet).

The tree was generously donated by Brook and Sally Johnson, and Claridge Funeral Service donated a brass plaque which commemorates the significance of the tree: the plaque was installed on 1 February. It will be shaded by the tree as it grows, and remind future generations of the tree's significance:

*"In celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, this Oak tree has been donated by Brook & Sally Johnson in gratitude for the continuing and heartfelt Prayers offered up from St Mary's Church for our Queen Elizabeth II and for all who live in and support Marlborough and its surrounding villages"*

Daniel Claridge and Brook and Sally Johnson came to Priory Gardens on Wednesday to see the plaque installed, joined by Town Mayor Councillor Lisa Farrell, Town Clerk Richard Spencer-Williams, Grounds Manager Nigel Weatherly, and Anna Forbes from Action for the River Kennet. Explaining the wording on the plaque Sally said it was important to mention St Mary's Church, where prayers are said every week for each part of the community, as the church was a link to the Queen's strong faith which had been central to her character and had sustained her during her long reign. Daniel represented Claridge Funeral Services, where the team is always very

active in its support for community ventures in the town, for example arranging car boot sales to raise funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Our thanks go to them all.

## New Copse at Tin Pit

On Thursday, 2 February our team planted a copse of trees at Tin Pit (see note 2). They have been enclosed by a fence temporarily to protect the young trees from livestock. This completes the programme to plant 70 trees: one for each year of the Queen's reign.

The full list of where you can find all 70 native trees is:

- Elcot Lane – 6 trees (a mix of Acers, Beech, and Hornbeam)
- Stonebridge – with partners Action for the River Kennet - 15 trees (Black Poplars, White Willows, Alder)
- Priors Gardens – 1 Oak and 1 Willow
- Marlborough Common – 7 trees (Birch and Oak)
- Tin Pit – Copse of 40 trees (Silver Birch, Rowan, Wild Cherry)

Now that all 70 trees have been planted, we will add their details to the official Queen's Green Canopy map.

*Richard Spencer-Williams*

Richard Spencer Williams, PSLCC  
Town Clerk

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## Notes to editors

1. Queen's Green Canopy: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>  
As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the QGC was due to conclude in December – the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the United Kingdom is from October to March, the initiative was extended to include the full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022 and concluding in March 2023.
2. Information about Marlborough Town Council's parks and open spaces, including a map showing their locations: <https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/play-areas-open-spaces>
3. Action for the River Kennet is a group of people who care about the Rivers Kennet and Pang and their tributaries. ARK is joint owner of Stonebridge Meadow with the Town Council and also our partner to help improve habitat and conservation grazing at Coopers Meadow.  
<http://www.riverkennet.org/aboutus/aboutusmain>
4. Photographs (jpg files to follow by separate email via a link to WeTransfer) – for thumbnails and description see next pages. Please use any of the photographs with appropriate credits.

February 2023



1: Oak in Priory Gardens: L-R: Richard Spencer-Williams (Marlborough Town Clerk), Anna Forbes (Action for the River Kennet), Brook and Sally Johnson, Councillor Lisa Farrell (Town Mayor), Daniel Claridge, Nigel Weatherly (Grounds Manager) 2: Brook and Sally Johnson, Daniel Claridge



In celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, this Oak tree has been donated by Brook & Sally Johnson in gratitude for the continuing and heartfelt Prayers offered up from St Mary's Church for our Queen Elizabeth II and for all who live in and support Marlborough and its surrounding villages



1 & 2: The tree and plaque  
3: Copse at Tin Pit  
All photos: Marlborough Town Council

## June 2022

2 June 2022 – Mace Bearer Bob Dobie, Town Mayor Councillor Lisa Farrell, Deputy Mayor Councillor Donald Heath with the Oak tree.

*Photo: Jo Waltham (at the time Jo was a Town Councillor and Chair of Marlborough Town Council's Amenities & Open Spaces Committee)*



The QCG plaque and newly planted Oak in full leaf

*Photos: Dawn Whitehall (Marlborough Town Council Corporate Services Officer)*

