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## **The Queen's Green Canopy**

I write to ask for your help in making Rutland's contribution to Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee significant. Her Majesty's longstanding concern for the environment and for the future of our country is reflected in her choice of initiative for her Platinum Jubilee. The 'Queen's Green Canopy' is a nationwide initiative which will benefit future generations; to plant trees and create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the nation. As Lord-Lieutenant I hope that we might plant 40,000 British-grown trees in Rutland during the Platinum Jubilee year. This would be roughly one per head of the population.

I am calling on individuals, schools, community groups, parish, town and the county council and landowners to plant trees starting this autumn. We need to plant as many trees as possible and ensure that they flourish.

For smaller plantings of just a few trees I suggest that in Rutland we try to plant fruit trees, particularly crab apples. These will provide a nectar source for bees, and be beautiful and of interest with their blossom in the spring and fruit in the autumn and winter. Having fruit trees across our county will add to Rutland's beauty and its attractiveness to tourists. (As we know, tourism is a major source of income for Rutland and is a source of many livelihoods.). The Woodland Trust is supporting such plantings under the Queen's Green Canopy project. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/.../queens-green-canopy>. They are offering advice and (small) free trees. The Rutland Garden Centre (Ashwell Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7QN) is also offering discounted British Grown containerised fruit trees of a larger size for this purpose. Telephone 01572 4531320.

However, I will need the help of those with access to larger areas of land to reach the rather ambitious target of planting 40,000 trees. It would be wonderful to create new native woodland areas in Rutland – as Her Majesty wishes. Do you have larger areas of land or can you ask landowners who do have such areas to join in please?

The emphasis for larger scale plantings will be on native trees to create new native woodlands.

There is help available.

The Woodland Trust is providing help and discounts and encouraging landowners who have identified sites where they could create a new wood of 500 plus trees to get in touch <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/morewoods/> The Woodland Trust will help design your woodland, create a bespoke species mix, supply the agreed trees and tree protection, and cover up to 75% of costs.

If you would like a contractor to plant the trees for you, the Woodland Trust can arrange this and cover up to 60% of all costs for woodland creation of over 1ha. This is done through MOREwoods which is funded by Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland as part of a broader commitment to plant one million trees a year over the next decade. Application for the grant can be found on the Woodland Trust website (link already given) or contact Jules Acton: Tel 07815906362, email JulesActon@woodlandtrust.org.uk

In addition, more locally the RCC tree Officer, Stuart Kidd (SKidd@rutland.gov.uk) is happy to provide help.

The Queen's Green Canopy is having a nationwide interactive map of the new tree plantings. As Lord-Lieutenant I would very much like to be able to mark Rutland's (hopefully many) contributions. The map will be available to be marked from October 1<sup>st</sup> on the QGC website which is: <https://queensgreencanopy.org>. Please let me know where you will be planting trees and if you wish for publicity. I would love to come and see what will be done and bring the press if that suits you.

Thank you for your help. I hope that between us all we can do future generations in Rutland Proud.

*Sarah Fummers.*