



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Elf & Fairy Fair set to cast its spell on Sutton Manor

Get your wands at the ready – the magical side of nature comes to Sutton Manor community woodland on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September with The Elf & Fairy Fair, a free outdoor family festival for boys, girls and their families.

Join the secret Forest School in the woods where you can create your own crown, wand and wings. Enjoy marshmallows and crafts around the fire and watch out for the weird and wonderful fairies on stilts. Come and be enchanted by the magical tales in the storytelling tent, or ascend to the woodland's highest peak to consult the towering oracle known only as Dream.

The event will be opened by Mayor of St.Helens Councillor Geoff Almond at midday and runs until 4pm. Parking is available at the Smithy Manor pub or the King George V car park, both on Jubits Lane (WA9 4BB). You can find out more at [www.boldforestpark.com](http://www.boldforestpark.com) or by calling 01925 816217.

The afternoon is organised by The Mersey Forest in partnership with Forestry Commission and St.Helens Council as part of Access to Nature, a national scheme run by Natural England and funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The Fair is also part-funded by the EU Interreg IVb programme, as part of the Pure Hubs project.

The Mersey Forest's Jo Sayers said: "We're encouraging children to come along dressed up as elves or fairies, or they can make their own costume at the event itself throughout the afternoon. We're also providing free face painting to help complete their magical transformation!"

# ENDS

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## Notes to editors:

### Access to Nature

Access to Nature is run by Natural England and is part of the The Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme launched in November 2005 to help communities enjoy and improve their local environments.

Natural England manages this £28.75 million Lottery-funded programme on behalf of a consortium of twelve national environmental organisations comprising BTCV, British Waterways, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Greenspace, Groundwork UK, Land Restoration Trust, The National Trust, Natural England, RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust.

Through this programme, it is Natural England's ambition to create opportunities for people from all backgrounds to have greater access to our natural environment and bring a lasting change to their awareness and understanding as well as improved links to the natural world, which many of us can take for granted.

For further information about the programme visit [www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature)

For further information about the Big Lottery Fund, its programmes and awards visit [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

### The Mersey Forest

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' for 20 years.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West. Through community and partnership working, we have planted more than 8 million trees - equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area.

The Forest helps our towns and cities adapt to climate change and has won the Brian Redhead Award for Environmental Sustainability, creates woodlands that 20% of local people visit at least once a week, and by improving the image of our towns and cities

sets the scene for growth within the region's £98 billion economy.

We achieve all of this and more through our partnership of local authorities, landowners, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and businesses including United Utilities.

[www.merseyforest.org.uk](http://www.merseyforest.org.uk)

## **PURE HUBS**

This EU Interreg IVB project supports Pioneers in Urban-Rural Entrepreneurship to create vital new hubs, using funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

Find out more: [www.nweurope.eu/index.php?act=project\\_detail&id=4207](http://www.nweurope.eu/index.php?act=project_detail&id=4207)

## **Bold Forest Park**

Bold Forest Park is an evolving idea to develop the woodlands and businesses of south St.Helens as a place to visit and enjoy, bringing local jobs and prosperity. The Forest Park area straddles the M62 between Junctions 7 and 8. At its heart are areas of community woodland planted at the former colliery sites of Colliers Moss, Clock Face and Sutton Manor. The proposed park boundary also takes in woodland at Wheatacre, Maypole and Griffin Wood and a wider area of urban fringe farmland.

[www.boldforestpark.com](http://www.boldforestpark.com)