morefrom trees
Christmas

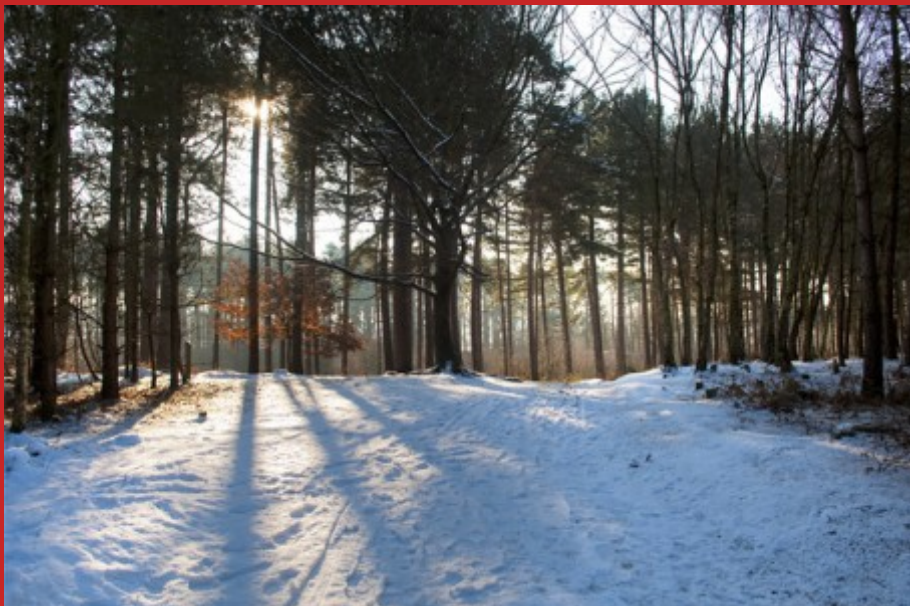Photo: McCoy Wynne

Season's greetings one and all
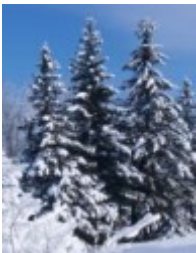
Merry Christmas and welcome to this festive more from trees, packed with awards, world record attempts, our top tips for a Christmas woodland walk, and the lowdown on recycling your Christmas tree.

Have a good break and see you in 2010.

The Mersey Forest Team

Our top five festive woodland walks

Stretch your legs courtesy of:
www.discoverthemerseyforest.co.uk

1. Ainsdale woodland path

Ainsdale National Nature Reserve is a must for lovers of wildlife. This easy walk takes you to the heart of its woodlands.
Get map and direction pack

2. Carey Park and Witton Mill

Explore Northwich Woodlands from the town centre. A circular walk encompassing a variety of different wildlife habitats.
Get map and direction pack

3. Woolton Woods and Camphill

A seven-acre Liverpool country park featuring beautiful ornamental gardens and mature woodland.
Get map and direction pack

4. Risley Moss winter wander

Explore the tranquil delights of Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve on a well surfaced path around this circular route (note: closed 25th, 26th Dec and 1st Jan).
Get map and direction pack

5. Helsby Quarry woodland park

A walk which, winding around the hill, reveals how the local sandstone has shaped Helsby.
Get map and direction pack

Tree O'Clock world record attempt

Volunteers and community groups from across The Mersey Forest teamed up this month for a Guinness World Record attempt to plant as many trees as possible in one hour across multiple locations.

The BBC Breathing Places event saw The Friends of Griffin Wood (check out their new blog) team up with St.Helens' Ramblers to plant over 100 trees at Griffin Wood, the Friends of Anderton and Marbury plant 80 trees (report here), and Speke's Friends of Mill Wood and Alder Wood collaborating with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to plant 400 trees.

With further tree planting happening at Church Wood in Whitegate, Cheshire, and at Kentmere Avenue allotments, St.Helens, all involved are waiting with baited breath to see if the current record of 653,000 trees nationwide has been broken.

At the time of writing, the final totals are still being feverishly calculated at BBC HQ, so keep an eye on the Tree O'Clock website for the latest news.

Photo: McCoy Wynne

Research shows £2m per year impact of European funding for woodlands

Photo: McCoy Wynne

Communities in the Northwest are £2m per year better off thanks to new woodlands created by just one of The Mersey Forest's funding streams.

Research was carried out by Regeneris Consulting into the economic impact of Mersey Forest projects funded by the European Union's Merseyside Objective One programme.

The study looked at a range of benefits that result from the new green spaces (like fresh air and exercise) and then developed a

model that put a monetary value on each one.

Top of the list, with a value of more than £900,000 a year across the region, is the benefit of having a woodland view, either from home or on a regular journey, such as the daily commute to work.

The Forest also brings great advantages in terms of health and wellbeing. Tree planting reduces air pollution - which can contribute to asthma and strokes, for example - and this

was calculated to bring benefits worth over £100,000 a year.

In total over the next 50 years, the £7m Objective One funding (which has now ended) will generate an extra £70m of benefits.

Click to read the full report.

Award for "real difference made" by Forests' green infrastructure role

Photo: McCoy Wynne

The impact of a green infrastructure prospectus commissioned by Community Forests North West (the charity supporting The Mersey Forest, Red Rose Forest and Pennine Edge Forest) and Natural England, has been recognised at the Landscape Institute Awards 2009.

Awarding the Landscape Policy prize to the Liverpool and Manchester City Region Green Infrastructure Prospectus, judges said that since its launch in 2005 the document "has had a major effect on national and regional policy and advocacy and has made a real difference."

The prospectus by consultants TEP set the context and identified the priorities for improving the planning and delivery of green infrastructure in the Liverpool and Manchester City Regions. At a time when green infrastructure was a less-familiar concept than it is now, the project presented a vision for the city regions that placed environmental improvements alongside built development: at the core of delivering sustainable communities and quality of life.

A long way in four years
Four years on, green infrastructure is now embedded in the Regional Spatial Strategy, we have a North West Green Infrastructure guide and website, both Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region are now developing green infrastructure

frameworks, and the green infrastructure approach is informing regeneration initiatives across the region.

As a result the prospectus's key commitments and recommendations to combat shortfalls in policy and action have now all either been achieved or are underway - with a new set of priorities now emerging for the decade to come.

How to recycle your real Christmas tree in each local authority within The Mersey Forest

CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER
Christmas trees can be recycled at a range of locations across Cheshire West and Chester. To find out how to recycle your tree in your area, call Cheshire West and Chester Council on 0300 123 8 123 and select option 6.

HALTON
Real Christmas trees in Halton can be recycled at:

Recycling & Household Waste Centre, Johnsons Lane, Widnes, WA8 0SJ - tel: 0151 495 1251

Recycling & Household Waste Centre, Picow Farm Road, Runcorn, WA7 4UB - tel: 01928 591082

The Christmas trees can be recycled in the Green Waste skips which are then sent for recycling into compost. The sites are open every day except Christmas Day from 8am to 6pm.

For further details please call the Contact Centre on 0151 907 8300.

KNOWSLEY
Christmas trees can be recycled from Saturday 2 January to Sunday 10 January between 10am and 4pm at the following community recycling points:

Halewood Park, Okell Drive, Halewood
Millbrook Park Millennium Green, Old Hall Lane, Kirkby
Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Huyton
Holy Family Social Club

Don't forget to use your grey recycling bin and community recycling points to recycle glass, cans, paper, plastic and cardboard.

If you require further information about the refuse and recycling service contact the Environmental Helpline on 443 2400.

LIVERPOOL
In Liverpool, you can drop off your real Christmas tree for recycling at the following locations:

Alderfield Road - Speke, by Millwood
Calderstones Park - Crompton Lane entrance
Calderstones Park - Yew Tree Road car park
Croxteth Park - Oak Lane car park
Everton Park - Viewing Platform, Netherfield Road North
Long Lane Recreation Ground - Garston
Newsham Park - Gardeners Drive (Sheil Road end)
Otterspool Promenade - First car park
Sefton Park - Lark Lane entrance
Stanley Park - car park
Wavertree Park - tennis centre car park
Woolton Road - boys club car park

All the drop off locations have 24-hour access except for Croxteth Park which is open 7am to 7pm.

SEFTON
After Christmas, Sefton Council's Cleansing Services will run a doorstep collection of Christmas trees for composting for residents in the borough. To arrange a Saturday collection, please call Sefton Plus on 0845-140 0845. The service is limited and will be operated on a first come, first served basis.

Christmas trees can also be left at drop off points at Lifeboat Road in Formby, Crosby Marina as well as the WRS Composting site, located at New Causeway just off the Formby Bypass, during opening hours. Trees are to be left throughout January 2009.

Similarly all the Household Waste Recycling Centres in Sefton will also accept Christmas trees for composting and offer other recycling services as well.

These are open from 8am to 5pm and are located at Foul Lane, Southport, Altcar Road, Formby, Sefton Lane, Maghull and Irlam Road, Bootle. The sites will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Residents are reminded to remove all decorations and any metal base brackets before recycling their tree.

ST.HELENS
Real Christmas trees can be recycled at the following locations and times:

Naylor Wood car park, from 1030am to 3.30pm, Sunday 10th January

Sherdley Park at 10am, Sunday 10th January

Taylor Park at 10am, Sunday 10th January

Rectory Nursery from 11am to 3pm, Saturday 9th January

WARRINGTON
In Warrington you can recycle your real Christmas tree in the garden waste containers located at:

Gatewarth Community Recycling Centre, Gatewarth Industrial Estate, Barnard Street, WA5 1DD

Woolston Community Recycling Centre, off New Cut Lane, Woolston, WA1 4AG

Stockton Heath Community Recycling Centre, off Sandy Lane, Stockton Heath, WA4 2AY

The community recycling centres are open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Opening times are 8am to 4pm.

Photo: McCoy Wynne

Want to know more or get involved?

Contact Paul Nolan, Director, The Mersey Forest

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THE MERSEY FOREST
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