

The Tree Planting Ceremonies - May 6th 2022.

As part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme, in this Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year, the planting of an oak tree took place at Brookfield Community School and at Chesterfield College's Sheffield Road site.

Preparation for these events has taken over 9 months, led by the OCS Secretary liaising with O.C. Brell Ewart, D.L., the County Deputy Lieutenant responsible for promoting the Queen's Green Canopy in Derbyshire. We were honoured that Col. John Wilson O.B.E., D.L., the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire performed the planting of the trees on behalf of Her Majesty.

We are very grateful for wholehearted support of both institutions given to this project. It is very apparent that both greatly value their association with the Old School.

Videos of the presentations and plantings can be watched on this website. Unfortunately, traffic noise does make some of the speeches hard to decipher so that text together with still photographs, are included below.

Speeches were made by the following at each location:

Brookfield Community School

Derrick Priestley – OCS Secretary

Keith Hirst, Head Teacher

John Drabble, OCS President;

Tony Hine, OCT Trustee

Col. J Wilson, OBE, DL , Vice Lord-Lieutenant

Brell Ewart DL

Chesterfield College

Derrick Priestley – OCS Secretary

Julie Richards, Principal and CEO

John Drabble, OCS President;

Frank Gorman, OCT Chairman

Col. J Wilson, OBE, DL , Vice Lord-Lieutenant

Brell Ewart DL

Other staff members, students and Old Cestrefeldians also attended both events and took the opportunity of assisting with the tree planting.

The Brookside tree will commemorate not only all the pupils and staff that attended Chesterfield School at Brookside in the past, but also the pupils and staff of the Brookfield Community School, of the past, present and the future.

The following links to "Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at Brookfield":

<https://www.brookfieldcs.org.uk/galleries/celebrating-the-queens-platinum-jubilee-at-brookfield>

and this links to the article published by the Derbyshire Times on May 17th:

<https://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/education/tree-planting-ceremony-among-events-at-chesterfield-school-to-mark-queens-platinum-jubilee-3696698>

The following are two further photographs, courtesy of OC Michael Hadfield, of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenant addressing the Year 7 Assembly.



Similarly, the Sheffield Road tree will commemorate not only all the pupils and staff that attended the Sheffield Road School in the past, but also the pupils and staff of the Chesterfield College, of the past, present and the future.

Main themes of the speeches were the uniqueness of this year's Platinum Jubilee – the first and would there ever be another? – and the memories that the trees would ignite in those who see them both of the past, the present and those yet to be formed over the long life of the trees. **Plant a tree for the Jubilee.**

After the Chesterfield College planting, Philip Riden presented the Vice Lord-Lieutenant with copies of The History of Chesterfield Grammar and the two booklets giving background information on those OCS lost in the two World Wars.

Tours of both premises were enjoyed after the plantings.

Brookfield Community School Speech Transcripts and Photographs



Derrick Priestley

My Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Ladies, Gentlemen and Students. It is my great pleasure to welcome you here this afternoon.

When Chesterfield Grammar School was founded, Queen Elizabeth 1st was on the throne and the timber of traditional English Oaks was used to build her ships. Queen Elizabeth 1st was also instrumental in the Foundation of the Grammar School in Chesterfield.



Today, over 400 years later, we are here today, inspired by Queen Elizabeth the 2nd's 'Green Canopy' scheme, to plant the first of two English Oak Trees. One Tree is to be planted here and the other will be planted this afternoon, some two miles away, at the former Sheffield Road premises of Chesterfield Grammar School.

Each Oak Tree will grow and stand proudly to symbolise not just the ongoing relationship between the Old Cestrefeldians', the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust and Brookfield Community School, but to commemorate each and every Student and member of Staff that attended Chesterfield School here, from 1967 to 1991, and each and every Student and Staff member of Brookfield Community School that have passed through these doors since 1991 and all those that will continue to do so in the future.

The fact that we are all stood here today, is because of this strong, long lasting, working relationship with the Brookfield Community School and we are grateful for their generous cooperation in making this event possible.

Would you please welcome Keith Hirst, Head Teacher of the Brookfield Community School.

Keith Hirst

Thank you Derrick, and thank you to everyone here to mark this very special occasion. Thanks Derrick also for organising such agreeable weather. And special welcome to the Vice Lord Lieutenant and the Deputy Lieutenant, as well as the Old Cestrefeldians here today. To plant an oak tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme is something very special and fitting to mark Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne. An incredible achievement and something unlikely to ever be seen again.



We have made this singularity/uniqueness clear to the students at Brookfield, highlighting that this is something that needs to be marked and that we will never witness again. We want youngsters to remember 2022 and the Platinum Jubilee long into their adulthood.

Later today will host a Platinum Jubilee Picnic on the sports fields for 1200 — so thank you Derrick once again for the weather!

This oak tree will grace the entrance to school for years to come. We are certainly reminding our students that this is something they will see grow as they grow.

The tree also marks the close links between Brookfield and the Old Cestrefeldians, and it is important to everyone at Brookfield that these links are maintained. As Derrick points out, this school has origins that go back over 400 years.

The Old Cestrefeldian Society plays a vital role in ensuring this process of remembering, and not allowing the past to be forgotten. As Headteacher I am very grateful for the role the society plays in maintaining the links.

John Drabble

My Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Ladies, Gentlemen and Students.

As President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society, I am delighted to be able to take part in the planting of this oak tree.

Some of you will have seen the TV program, “This is my house” with Stacey Dooley. Four contestants, including the house’s owner, try to persuade a panel that the house really is theirs.



Well this is my school.

Over the years the school has changed hugely; its structure, location, type, leadership, students; individual’s memories will be very different.

Going back to its genesis in the 1590s, in the centre of town, my school was boarding, focussed on the Christian faith, Latin and Greek and made possible by the funding of local benefactors and fees. The Grammar School.

This became the familiar Victorian structure on Sheffield Road, later Chesterfield School, much extended until 1967 when the school moved here and in 1991 became Brookfield Community School.

This site was acquired in the late 1930s as playing fields, becoming excellent sports fields which in 1961 held the All England Inter County Athletic Championships but just sports fields.

They were part of my school from 1960.

In 1961 the sixth form Science block opened which I joined in 1964; more like a 6th form college where students were expected to and generally did act responsibly, unsupervised. I saw, at close quarters, the remainder being constructed but never benefitted from it.

My school

The oak is a particularly emotive symbol of longevity, strength and steadfastness in an ever-changing world.

For me, this tree will be a focus to remember Old Cestrefeldians of earlier years, many who achieved great things, the masters who did so much more than was required, the rugby, the music, the form mates and pals.

I hope it will continue to be a focus for many over many years, whether Old Cestrefeldians, members of Brookfield Community School or both, helping to remember the good times, those who inspired or helped to shape their characters, the mates, maybe the scrapes, all of which were part of **their school**.

I will now hand over to Tony Hine, Trustee of the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust.

Tony Hine

My Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Ladies, Gentlemen and Students.



On behalf of the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust, I would like to say how pleased we are to be part of the tree plantings taking place today at the two locations here and at Sheffield Road which were home to Chesterfield Grammar School during its long history.

The Trust was formed as a charitable company some eight years ago by Old Cestrefeldians with the dual purpose of collecting, preserving and displaying artefacts and documents relating to the school and of offering prizes and awards for the benefit of 11- to 20-year-olds in the Chesterfield area where financial help is needed.

Since that time, thanks to the generous financial support of former members of the school, we have been able to undertake a number of projects. These include the restoration and re-siting of the plaques listing those Old Cestrefeldians who died in the two world wars and in whose memory we hold an annual remembrance service. We have assembled a large collection of documents, which have been placed for safe keeping in the County Archives at Matlock and we have sponsored the production of a history of the school, written by a professional historian and former student, Philip Riden.

Educational awards totalling over £6,000 have been made, including four made annually to students here at Brookfield Community School at their annual awards ceremony. To cement the ongoing relationship with Brookfield, we hope shortly to install a plaque in memory of E. G. Price, headmaster of Chesterfield School for the 23 years when the whole of the school population was based here.

To repeat what John Drabble has already said, the Trust very much hopes that the two trees planted today will help to preserve the memory of the thousands of students who passed through the school, and of the masters who inspired them to greater things as they went out into the wider world.

Thank you.

Col. John Wilson OBE, DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire

Thank you for letting me share in this with you today.

Your Head used a word just now, “unique”. We are all very fortunate today to be able to share in a piece of unique history. Never before has this country had a monarch who has served for 70 years. I suggest that it is very unlikely that it will ever happen again. So this is unique; 70 years on the throne, of dedicated service. Something to celebrate.

There is a lot going on around the county; I your town, in your village, on your street. All sorts of things, services, street parties. I’ve just heard that there is a picnic here this afternoon. Lots of things rightly happening to celebrate Her Majesty’s 70 years.

Specifically Her Majesty has asked that of part of the celebration we plant some trees. You may know that during her 70 year reign, she, herself, has planted over 1500 around the world. Trees have been an important part of her reign. She specifically said can we plant some trees.



So I am extremely grateful that this school has responded to that, that this school is taking part in this celebration.

It was also mentioned earlier about building memories for the future. Everyone here will be long gone when this tree continues to stand fast but I want this tree to provide memories to you all, especially the youngsters and maybe in 50 years to come, you will be able to look back and say “I was there when we planted this tree”. And that’s the Queen’s catchphrase “Plant a tree for the Jubilee” and that is what we are doing today.

I would like thank the School and the Old Cestrefeldian Society for all the clear and super support that has enabled us to gather here today. So once again, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, thank you very much.

Brell Ewart DL



Ladies and gentlemen, I am one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Derbyshire and I am heading up the Queen’s Green Canopy for the whole of Derbyshire. So it gives me immense pride to be here today as an Old Cestrefeldian myself to see this tree go in.

A few weeks ago we were in Derby planting a tree there and the Mayor of Derby recalled as a young boy in 1952 planting a tree as Her Majesty the Queen celebrated her coronation year.

He said “I went back to that tree recently and, would you believe I couldn’t get my arms around it. We hope in many years to come the young people here will remember this day as the Vice Lord-Lieutenant said when this oak tree was planted to celebrate the absolutely fabulous 70 years of Her Majesty the Queen and, who knows, you may not be able to get your arms around this one.

Could we conclude this wonderful moment by giving three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen.

Thank you very much indeed.



Chesterfield College Speech Transcripts and Photographs

Derrick Priestley

My Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Ladies, Gentlemen, Students, classmates. It is my great pleasure to welcome you here this afternoon.

When Chesterfield Grammar School was founded, Queen Elizabeth 1st was on the throne and the timber of traditional English Oaks was used to build her ships. Queen Elizabeth 1st was also instrumental in the Foundation of the Grammar School in Chesterfield.

Over 400 years later, we are here today, inspired by Queen Elizabeth 2nd's 'Green Canopy' scheme, to plant the second of two English Oak Trees. The first was planted at Brookside this morning and the second here.

Each Oak Tree will grow and stand proudly to symbolise not just the ongoing relationship between the Old Cestrefeldians, the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust and Chesterfield College, but to commemorate each and every Student and member of Staff that attended Chesterfield Grammar School up to 1967, and each and every Student and Staff member of Chesterfield College that have passed through these doors since 1967 and all those that will do so in the future.



The fact that we are all stood here today, is because of this strong, long lasting, working relationship with the Chesterfield College and we are grateful for their generous cooperation in making this event possible.

Would you please welcome the principal and Chief Executive of Chesterfield College, Julie Richards.

Julie Richards



Thank you Derrick.

My Vice Lord-Lieutenant, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the governors, staff and students at Chesterfield College, we are delighted to welcome you all to this ceremony in support of the Queen's green canopy.

We are extremely fortunate that our campus is a significant part of education history as the old Grammar School now houses our highly successful A Level provision and provides innovative incubator units for the creative industries.

The tree planting ceremony fits perfectly into the college's agenda to teach all of our students the need to address the very important environmental issues which we face, not just as a nation but as a high priority global issue.

As a further education college, we know first-hand how education transforms lives and with greater flexibilities and equality of access to education we continue to develop the college and its services to ensure we are providing the skills requirements for both now and for the future and most importantly improving the life chances and prosperity for all the citizens of Chesterfield and North Derbyshire.

I thank you all for joining us today and would now like to hand over to John Drabble, President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society.

John Drabble

My Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Ladies, Gentlemen and Students.

As incoming President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society, I am delighted to be able to take part in the planting of this tree.

Some of you will have seen the TV program, "This is my house" with Stacey Dooley. Four contestants, including the house's owner, try to persuade a panel that the house really is theirs.

Well this is my school.

Over the years the school has changed hugely; its structure, location, type, leadership, students; individual's memories will be very different.

Going back to its genesis in the 1590s, close-by, it had boarders, focussed on Christianity, Latin and Greek and was made possible by the funding of local benefactors and fees. The Grammar School.

After years of mixed fortunes, this became the current Victorian structure subsequently much extended. It was transferred to local authority control in 1940 and renamed Chesterfield School.



In 1967, the school moved to Brookside and this estate was transferred to our neighbours, Chesterfield College. Brookside had been the site of the school playing fields since the late 1930s and the 6th form science block from 1961. In 1991 it closed to be reopened as Brookfield Community School.

In 2019 it was very pleasing to see that a Sixth Form had been re-established here as part of Chesterfield College.

This was my school from 1960-1964 and with the Brookside Science block until 1967.

The oak is a particularly emotive symbol of longevity, strength and steadfastness in an ever-changing world.

For me, this tree will be a focus to remember Old Cestrefeldians of earlier years, many who achieved great things, the masters who did so much more than required, the choir, the orchestra, school plays, Combined Cadet Force, the girls of St Helena over the wall, form mates and pals.

I hope it will continue to be a focus for many over many years, whether Old Cestrefeldians, members of Chesterfield College or perhaps even both, helping them to remember the good times, those who

inspired or helped to shape their characters, the mates, maybe the scrapes, all of which were part of **their school / college**.

I will now hand over to Frank Gorman, Chairman of the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust.

Frank Gorman

My Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Ladies, Gentlemen and Students.

The Old Cestrefeldians' Trust is a charity that was established just about eight years ago by members of the old boys of the school and it has two separate aims, to preserve the memories, the memorabilia, the artefacts of the School and to provide grants to local students. For example last Friday I was able to present a cheque for £300 to a young student at Outwood Academy. So we are helping people where we can. We have a fairly modest income, we could always do with more, but we do our best with what we have.



Thanks to the financial support of Old Cestrefeldians, we have been able to undertake a number of projects ourselves. These include the restoration and re-siting of the war memorial plaques that were up at the Brookfield site listing those Old Cestrefeldians who died in two world wars and in whose memory we hold an annual remembrance service here each year since 2015 and we will be having one on the 11th of November this year.

We are grateful to Chesterfield College West Studios for their very wonderful and continuing support and we very much hope that the tree planted today will live to a ripe old age to help preserve the memory of the thousands of students who have passed through the School and those still to pass through the College Sixth Form.

Thank you.

Col. John Wilson OBE, DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire

It's a great privilege for me and can I suggest in fact it's a great privilege for us all to be able to share a piece of history. This really is history.

We know why we're here, we know what's driving this, Her Majesty the Queen has been on the throne for 70 years. That is a piece of history. It's never happened before; I'm probably willing to put money on the fact that it will never happen again. It is a unique situation and we are all privileged, I suggest, to be able to be involved in that.



Seventy years of dedicated service by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 2nd. It needs to be celebrated and we are doing that in a number of ways across the UK throughout this year. There are lots of celebrations, lots of church services, there are lots of tattoos, there are street parties and I hope that some, if not all of you are involved somewhere in your local community in those types of celebrations.

The Queen herself specifically asked as part of the celebrations for communities, for the people of the UK, to plant trees. During her 70 year reign she has planted over 1500 trees herself across the world and she was keen to mark this 70 year service with trees. Plant a tree for the Jubilee is the catchphrase and I am delighted that this college has picked up that request, that challenge to do exactly that. It is an amazing thing that Her Majesty has done for us for 70 years and this is just a little way in which we can say thank you her and remember what she has done.

And that word “remember” is important. This oak tree will last for over 100 years and so it will see us all out but I hope that each and every one of us, perhaps not all of us, 50 years from now will be able to say “I planted a tree for the Jubilee. I was there when this tree was planted” and take that with you, tell everybody you know, tell your families, tell your friends, that today, to celebrate Her Majesty’s 70 years, Platinum Jubilee, you planted a tree.

On behalf of Her Majesty, I thank the College, I thank the Cestrefeldian Society and Trust, particularly all those involved in the College for making this day possible.

Brell Ewart DL

I too will try to compete with the traffic of Sheffield Road as we did all those years ago.

The Head of the College, my Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Old Cestrefeldians, Students.



It is quite remarkable for me to be here today. I am the third generation of the Ewart family that came through these gates of this School. My grandfather lived on St Helen’s Street and was the youngest of nine children and my father was born at the corner of Newbold Road and Sheffield Road and to cap it all my wife-to-be for the whole time that I was at School lived in the first house on Shirland Street and I didn’t know her at that time.

So planting a tree in this very location is very, very special for me.

As a Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire and heading the Queen’s Green Canopy for the whole of Derbyshire how wonderful it is to be able to plant this tree today and we thank everyone involved, particularly Derrick, who has done all the superb work behind the scenes and it has been going on for some weeks, Derrick, I know that, but thank you very much indeed.

As the Prince of Wales said, it is really “Planting a tree for the Jubilee” and as Her Majesty’s Vice Lord-Lieutenant has said, it is a very, very special year that we will all remember for the rest of our days, and for the young people here today, I hope that you will remember it for a long time to come the day that this tree was planted.

A few weeks ago in Derby we planted a tree and the Mayor of Derby was present and he recalled in 1952 planting a tree for the coronation. He said “I’ve been back to that tree recently and I can’t get my arms around it”. So I do hope that the young people today will come back and see this tree in years to come and remember this very special day. Let’s say it been a tree-mendous day (the jokes get worse).

So to wrap it up, in true Chesterfield School style, may I say let’s have three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen.

Thank you very much indeed.

