



Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

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FROM SMALL ACORNS MIGHTY OAKS GROW

Did you know that English Oaks can provide a haven for up to an astonishing 2,300 species? Guernsey Gardens Ltd do, and to celebrate their 50th Anniversary this year, they have generously donated 50 beautiful Oaks across the Bailiwick, three of which have been gifted to Alderney. The Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) and the States of Alderney have carefully chosen three special sites to plant them within. Standing at 8ft tall, the British grown English Oaks have been well established to ensure they thrive.

The planting of these trees marks a commitment to both the Island's environment and community, as well as creating a symbolic relationship between the woodlands found across the Bailiwick. Whilst the AWT will plant many hundreds of trees within the Island's Community Woodland, these three oaks will create a link between Guernsey and Alderney and will be planted in sites accessible to the public, whilst maximising their benefit for wildlife and the community:

- **The Alderney Peace Garden** – this publicly owned site is known for its tranquillity and was established in memory of Sapper Onions, the only British Soldier to lose his life on Alderney during WWII.
- **The Longis Nature Reserve**; the oldest Nature Reserve on Alderney, and the closest point of land in the British Isles to the Continent. The Reserve Oak will be planted near to the oldest permanently occupied building in the Channel Islands, the Roman Fort known locally as The Nunnery.
- **The Alderney Community Woodland (ACW)**; the heart of woodland planting on Alderney for the last 14 years and the largest Community Woodland site in the Channel Islands. The Oak will be planted within Milly's Wood. This area of the ACW was designed and planted by students of St. Anne's School. The Guernsey Garden Oak will be sited at its centre next to a memorial bench with one of the most stunning views on the island.

Members of the Public who would like to take part in the Community Dedication can join States of Alderney President, William Tate, at The Peace Garden at 11AM on Easter Monday. William will assist Wildlife Volunteers and the Team Wilder Community Support Lead in planting the Oak.

We hope these trees will outlive us all and provide a tranquil spot to sit under and a future home to minibeasts, birds and flora, for many generations to come.

Alongside the tree planting the AWT will also be running a creative writing competition, the winner of which will be granted the honour of naming one of these special Oaks.

Quotes

Abigail de Castella, AWT Team Wilder Community Support Lead

“There is no such legacy as magical as an English Oak, with huge thanks to Guernsey Gardens for including Alderney in their 50th anniversary celebrations, we hope the 50 Oaks across the Bailiwick will be a gift that continues to give for hundreds of years”

William Tate, President of the States of Alderney

“I am delighted to support this worthy project. The oak is a symbol of strength and resilience which has always provided stability in the most challenging of circumstances. It has lessons to teach us all. That we have been included in this initiative serves to demonstrate the close relationship we have with our Guernsey cousins”

Ends

Background

About the Alderney Wildlife Trust

The Alderney Wildlife Trust is one of the 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the British Isles. We are the youngest of the Wildlife Trust, forming 20 years ago and since then the AWT has received incredible support from a dedicated team of wildlife enthusiasts, what we like to think of as ‘Team Wilder’. This team isn’t just limited to residents, AWT staff and members, it includes people from all walks of life who have an interest in our island’s wildlife, as well as supporters and organizations from around the world. We work with the local community to engage them with their natural environment in order to protect Alderney's wildlife for the future.

[Our mission is to study, protect and champion Alderney’s wildlife. We wish to see a thriving natural island where wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing our island’s future and the climate and ecological emergencies that face us.](#)

Alderney is a very special place and by helping the work of the Alderney Wildlife Trust you can make a difference. After all, if you love where you live, you'll want to look after it - Dr. George McGavin, Patron AWT

Notes to Media

For further information, please contact: teamwilder@alderneywildlife.org