



Skipton
Town Council



New trees for Skipton!

- What:** Community tree planting event
When: 11 am to midday Sunday 16 November
Where: Raikes Road Burial Ground, Raikes Road, Skipton

The ongoing restoration project at Raikes Road Burial Ground is set to be enhanced even further with new trees presented by The Woodland Trust.

This old cemetery, which provides a tranquil haven for wildlife in the busy heart of Skipton is looked after by the Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground who are now looking forward to putting their new saplings in the ground as part of the project being funded primarily by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

People from all over the local area are being invited to come along to either help with the planting, or simply support those taking part on the day.

Speaking of the tree planting event on 16 November Friends' Group Chairman, Jean Robinson, said: "We are hoping that the people of Skipton will come along on the day to help plant the trees that the Woodland Trust has provided for us. The restoration of Raikes Road is very much *their* project. As well as being a key part of Skipton's history the Burial Ground forms an important part of the town's green heritage. We are planting the trees to replace old, original specimens which have had to be felled because of age and disease, so the planting represents a very important part of our mission to restore Raikes Road to its former glory".

The saplings being planted by the Friends - rowan, silver birch and wild cherry (all native broadleaved species) - will grow into flourishing young trees in as little as 10 years. They have been provided by the Woodland Trust as part of its tree pack

scheme, where trees are supplied for free to groups that want to improve their neighbourhood and local environment.

John Tucker, Woodland Trust Director of Woodland Creation, added: “Planting trees is a fantastic way of bringing together groups of people – particularly children - who either want to improve their local environment, learn more about wildlife or create a lasting memorial for those who have made a mark on their community.

“The UK has just 13% woodland cover compared to a European average of 44% and the trees we do have are under increasing threat from diseases and development. By teaming up with communities like the Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground, the Woodland Trust hopes to double our native woodland cover and enrich our landscape for generations to come.”

The Woodland Trust’s tree packs come in eight different themes depending on why and where they’re being planted, such as to attract wildlife, offer all year round colour or grow fruit for baking, cooking or making drinks. There are a number of different pack sizes to choose - ranging from 30 trees for a small copse, to 420 for an area equivalent to an international football pitch.

For more information about the charity’s tree pack scheme visit woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees.

Ends

Notes to editors:

For more information about the tree planting event in particular, or Raikes Road Burial Ground and the Friends’ Group’s restoration project in general, contact Les Chandler at Skipton Town Council on 01756 700553 or e-mail les@skiptontowncouncil.gov.uk.

For more information about the Woodland Trust and the tree pack scheme contact the Woodland Trust press office on 01476 581121 or email chloebutterick@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

The tree packs have been generously funded by lead partners Sainsbury's, IKEA FAMILY and Biffa Award, also funded by WHSmith, Wilko and players of People's Postcode Lottery.

About the Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity championing native woods and trees. It has more than 500,000 members and supporters and its three key aims are: i) to enable the creation of more native woods and places rich in trees ii) to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future iii) to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

Established in 1972, the Woodland Trust now has over 1,200 sites in its care covering approximately 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres). Access to all Woodland Trust sites is free.