

## BALA TREE PLANTING

Welcome ladies & gentlemen — it's a real pleasure to see so many fellow campers, old and new. First of all, may I thank you all, on behalf of the Chairman and Committee members of North East Cheshire DA, for joining us for this very special Jubilee Temporary Holiday Site.

NECDA has a long association with Bryn Moel (Moyl) Farm. And although we have no record of the year we held the first THS here, we are sure it's more than 50 years. In that time, we have welcomed many generations of the same families and established many Necda traditions. All of this would not have been possible without the dedication and support of our stewards – past and present – I'd like you to take a moment to show your appreciation.

You may be asking why are we planting a tree?

To begin with, we planned to plant a tree, as part of the Queen's Jubilee Canopy. And Bryn Moel (Moyl) Farm seemed like the obvious location. But now as we come out of a pandemic, there's been a moment of reflection for many of us. Some of you may have lost loved ones and certainly we've lost some of our Necda family, who in their day, have contributed so much to the success of Necda.

Sadly last year, we also lost Merrion Williams, who with his wife Mair, have given us a warm welcome to their farm every year.

And indeed we were privileged to be able to form a line of honour as his cortege made its way to his final resting place.

And so it seems more appropriate, to plant this tree in commemoration of those who are no longer with us. In years to come, we hope this carefully chosen spot will provide a focal point for those who wish to spend a few quiet moments, remembering their loved ones, and hopefully recollect the many happy times they spent here.

In their honour, we will observe a one minute silence. And I'd like you to use this time to connect with the sounds all around us, to feel the breeze on your skin, and to hear the birdsong in the trees (...and even to feel the cold raindrops on your face)

Thankyou - at this point, I'd like to introduce our Hornbeam tree, who is a mighty fine specimen of a *Carpinus Betula*, Frans Fontaine, but as that's quite a tongue twister, I've nicknamed him Frank.

I'd like to ask the following people to step forward: Our Chairman, Phil Edmondson, our Vice President & Countryside Officer, Dennis McGee, Representing all past & present stewards, Angela Williams and to represent the farm, Lisa/Effion.

Please plant this tree as a perfect symbol of everlasting love for our family, friends, and the Williams family at Bryn Moel (Moyl) Farm.

I'd like to finish this ceremony with a poem, called **Come to the Meadow to Visit Me**

Come to the meadow to visit me  
Down by the roots of a tree  
Waste not your tears on the stone cold graves  
Use them to water a flower for me.

Give me to the earth when my winter comes  
Bury me deep in the ground  
Mark not my place with statues or urns  
Find me where life can be found.

Visit a garden on warm, summer days  
Keep company with blossoms and bees  
Remember my heart blooms forever in yours  
Take comfort from the rustling of trees.  
Let autumn surround you with life and the living  
Birdsong and aging copper leaves

Look up at the sky, give thanks for sun and rain  
When you think of me, smile more than grieve.  
Come to the forest to visit me  
Down by the roots of a tree  
Live every day that is given to you  
And water a new flower for me.

-- adapted from a poem by Lurana Brown

### **Description**

Columnar when young, *Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine' forms a neat, pyramidal shape as it matures. This slender Hornbeam is ideal for both gardens and avenue planting, with its form giving presence without a large footprint. Over 20 years it can reach 6 metres in height and just 2 metres in width.

Deeply ribbed green foliage turns buttery yellow in autumn. Despite being deciduous, the leaves can remain on the tree throughout winter. *Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine' is a tough tree, tolerating clay, chalky or damp soil. A great choice of compact Hornbeam for the garden.

