On 17 October, I noticed on the Quinton and Preston Deanery Facebook group page an interesting fact about the oak trees on the right-hand side as you walk out of the village towards Preston Deanery. I understand that they were planted in memory of Bert Harding who used to walk his dog along there. Bert and his wife lived in 3 Church View and they are both now buried in the churchyard.

Well, I hope that you will by now have heard of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative. However, for those who have not the intent is to thank Her Majesty for her exceptional service, celebrate her Platinum Jubilee and promote the importance of trees to the environment through the encouragement of tree planting across the nation where people will be invited to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". The campaign will see communities, charities, schools, youth groups, councils, businesses and landowners planting trees to create a lasting legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership that will enhance our environment and the landscape for generations to come.

In the months since The Queen's Green Canopy initiative was announced, with the significant help of both North and West Northamptonshire Councils, real progress has been made but now that the first tree-planting season is upon us we need to begin to convert aspiration into reality! The Northamptonshire launch took place on 13 October at Wicksteed Park when the Lord Lieutenant, enthusiastically assisted by a group of children from St Edward's Roman Catholic Primary School in Kettering, planted a sapling grown from an acorn produced by a 300-year-old Wicksteed Park oak. The launch was extensively covered both by BBC Radio Northampton and BBC TV Look East.

The invitation is for all of us to plant a tree so, if you can, as well as parish and town councils please encourage others whether schools (who will already know about the QGC), landowners known to you, the business community and others. So I was wondering whether Quinton might consider planting a sapling just as the family of Bert Harding had done all those years ago.

Where you or others known to you plant a tree, please tell the story on social media with this message: We are proud to support The #QueensGreenCanopy, a unique tree planting initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Full details on how to take part are at queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/plant

Don't forget to pin your tree to the QGC map. #LordLieutenant #Northamptonshire



All the Best, Steve. <a href="mailto:stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk">stephen.clarke@westnorthants.gov.uk</a>