

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate use

Support for wildlife is deep-rooted

Local tree management company Gristwood and Toms has given its support to wildlife conservation by joining the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) this summer.

The company is no stranger to local wildlife - they manage their very own piece of nature in their back yard! With a plot of about 17 acres in Shenley, Hertfordshire they have enough room for offices, workshops, vehicles, tree nurseries and a recycling centre, where all their waste is brought back before being processed for the production of 'green energy'. They leave ten acres of the site free for wildlife to roam around in, with bee hives, two wildlife ponds, and an area of native woodland.

Rob Reynolds, Chief Arborist at Gristwood and Toms, who is also learning how to handle bats with the Herts and Middlesex Bat Group, said "We are always striving to do a bit more, so with that in mind, we did a bit of research and decided to become a corporate member of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. It was an easy decision to make! Apart from all the great work HMWT do across their 43 nature reserves, they are an extremely nice bunch of people. It is vitally important that today, tomorrow and for the future, organisations like HMWT safeguard our wild areas, so that wildlife can flourish and people can always have somewhere to go and marvel at mother nature."

Gristwood and Toms provide professional tree management and consultancy. Consideration for the natural world is deep-rooted throughout their work. They strive to safeguard local veteran trees, using both traditional arborist methods and the latest technology in diagnosing, treating and preventing tree diseases. Work with English Heritage, the National Trust and the Environment Agency has seen them invest in the future of our trees and this year alone, they planted 5,000 new ones!



Herts & Middlesex

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Hertfordshire & Middlesex
Wildlife Trust Limited is
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President - SA Bowes-Lyon, PCA

Judy Adams, Chief Executive of HMWT said, "Without the support of local organisations, many areas of our work would be impossible. We are delighted that Gristwood and Toms have joined us as a member of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and look forward to developing our partnership. There are plenty of opportunities for corporate members to get involved with our projects. The key is finding the activity which suits each company the best – from participating on one of our corporate work parties to funding a specific activity or event – with the main aim of helping us to protect wildlife for the future."

Ends/

Notes for Editors

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

We are the leading voice for wildlife conservation in Hertfordshire and neighbouring areas. With 43 nature reserves spanning 1,900 acres, from beautiful woodlands and wetlands to rare patches of heath and orchard, we take practical action every day to help wildlife to flourish. The Wildlife Trusts are unique in being the only organisations that work to protect the full range of UK habitats and species, at a local level. <http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/>

Gristwood and Toms

An established local company based in Shenley, Hertfordshire, Gristwood and Toms provide professional tree management and consultancy throughout the UK. They recognise the importance of trees to our environment and advocate good tree management, maintenance and preservation wherever practicable. <http://www.gristwoodandtoms.com/>

The importance of trees for wildlife

Trees provide vital food and shelter for wildlife. Our native oak supports around 284 species of insect! And insects are a key food source for animals further up the food chain. The berries from native species are very welcome food for birds and caterpillars too. They provide fantastic sustenance for birds in late autumn and early winter, especially when ground frosts prevent them digging for creepy crawlies. As well insects and birds, bats are big fans of older trees in particular, as they have plenty of cracks and crevices for them to roost in.

Great native trees for wildlife include: Beech, oak, ash, alder, hornbeam, maple, silver birch, yew, bay willow, hazel, hawthorn, holly, crab apple, wild cherry

Contact for further information and high res images:

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