



JFSC Chairman plants trees for Jersey Mencap

The Chairman of the Jersey Financial Services Commission (JFSC) is taking time out from official duties this week to plant trees for Jersey Mencap.

Lord Eatwell will be joining members of the local charity and its clients to plant silver birch at the organisation's Pond Project on Friday morning (21 October). While at the site, the Chairman will also cut the ribbon to officially open the Project's new tool shed, which JFSC staff members purchased through their fundraising efforts.

The JFSC nominated Jersey Mencap as its annual charity for 2016 in April and since then staff members have raised approximately £2,500 in just six months. Groups of JFSC volunteers have also been heavily involved with working at the Pond Project site near Rozel, clearing overgrown footpaths, woodland and marshland areas, planting trees, and laying the foundations and building the tool shed.

Lord Eatwell will also donate an English Elm from Queens' College, University of Cambridge, where he is the current president. The tree, known in Latin as *Ulmus procera*, is one of 2,000 saplings produced from two trees that survived the devastating Dutch Elm Disease. The tree, which is believed to repel the beetle that carries the disease, will be delivered to the Island next month.

JFSC Chairman, Lord Eatwell commented:

"I have been really impressed with the efforts of all our staff raising money for Jersey Mencap and also volunteering to help with this incredibly important project for the charity. I am delighted that we are able to further contribute by donating a native elm tree from our Queens' College Cambridge project."

Ends.

Notes to Editor

Media are invited to attend the tree planting at the Jersey Mencap Pond Project on Friday 21 October at 11:00 for filming / photo opportunities. JFSC Chairman Lord Eatwell and Jersey Mencap's Alex Wiles will be available for interview. JFSC Deputy Chairman Debbie Prosser will also attend.

John Eatwell, Lord Eatwell of Stratton St Margaret, has been President of Queen's College Cambridge since 1997. An economist with an undergraduate degree from Queens' and a PhD from Harvard, Lord Eatwell has lectured in the Faculty of Economics and is Professor Emeritus of Financial Policy in the Judge Business School. A former senior advisor to the Labour Party, Lord Eatwell now sits in the House of Lords as a non-affiliated peer.

The Jersey Mencap Pond Project near Rozel offers young people with learning disabilities the opportunity to learn about conservation, land management, and gain valuable work experience.

The Pond Project won the Insurance Corporation "Best Conservation Project 2016."