



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Woodland Trust plants Ash trees grown from seeds taken to the International Space Station**

**Douglas, Isle of Man – 29 June 2016**

Ash trees grown from seeds taken into space by astronaut Nicole Stott have been planted by the Woodland Trust.

The seeds of the five Ash trees were gathered from a garden in Ballasalla and taken to the International Space Station by Nicole, wife of ManSat CEO Chris Stott.

After Nicole returned to Earth, the seeds were sown in late spring 2010.

The Celebration Tree Planting on Sunday (June 26) was part of a Teddy Bears' Picnic at Centenary Park, Birch Hill, Onchan.

Chris said: 'The Woodland Trust does such excellent work, and Nicole was thrilled to hear the trees were being planted, particularly in such a lovely setting. The seeds were with Nicole for the launch of STS128 Discovery and spent 104 days in space, making 1,456 orbits of the Earth, and travelling 35 million miles.'

Launched as a charity 12 years ago, the Woodland Trust is separate from the UK Woodland Trust. Its aims are the protection and maintenance of existing woodland on the Isle of Man; the creation of new woodland and enhancement of existing woodland by additional planting, using predominantly Manx native species; and to encourage access to, and enjoyment of, existing and new woodland by the public.

Woodland Trust Chairman, Professor Simon Maddrell, said: 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic was enjoyed by many of our doughty volunteers – who turn out in all weathers each winter to plant trees – and their families, together with two of the Onchan Commissioners (Derek Crellin and Martin McFarlane), who have been involved in setting up our stewardship of Centenary Park.

'We are a small Island charity, entirely run by volunteers. In the past 10 years we have planted 14,082 trees at hundreds of sites around the Island for landowners and farmers. In this way we hope to make our Island even more beautiful for the public and visitors alike, and to make a significant contribution towards mitigating the effects of climate change.'



'In conjunction with the Commissioners for Onchan, we are well advanced in our plans to create a new woodland and wildlife nature reserve at Centenary Park. Over the next few years this will grow into a rich resource for schoolchildren across the Island for outdoor nature lessons, together with providing a peaceful sanctuary to be enjoyed by Isle of Man residents and visitors.'

For more information about the Woodland Trust, visit [woodlandtrust.im](http://woodlandtrust.im) or find the charity on Facebook.

Formed in 1998, ManSat carries out satellite filings for the Isle of Man under a contract with the Isle of Man Government's Communications Commission.

**ENDS**

**(422 words)**

#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

##### **ManSat Limited**

ManSat carries out satellite filings for the Isle of Man under a contract with the Isle of Man Government's Communications Commission. Isle of Man's satellite filings are made to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva via the administration of the United Kingdom (Ofcom).

Established in May 1998, ManSat Limited is a Manx registered and Manx owned private limited company headquartered in Douglas in the Isle of Man, with offices and representation in the United Kingdom and the United States.

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