

Ancient Oak Reborn as Schoolchildren Plant Oak Sapling

Mighty oak from little acorn grows

A tiny sapling, which was grown from the acorn of a 222 year old ancient oak tree felled on the Blenheim Palace Estate, has been planted in the grounds of a local primary school.

The original tree was donated by Blenheim Palace to national charity the Sylva Foundation as the focus for an education project called OneOak.

The tree's felling was watched by 250 local school children who then returned to the woodland to plant seedlings grown from the acorns of the OneOak tree to create a new oak forest.

Stonesfield Primary School was one of schools that took part in the OneOak Project.

Three years on from the completion of the project, the school children planted a young oak sapling grown from the original oak tree in their school.



The Sylva Foundation organised a planting day on Friday March 11th. In addition to the young OneOak tree, trees and flowers were planted to create a new wild area for learning and play.

Paul Orsi, Sylva Foundation Director for Forestry, commented: "This is a wonderful project to help young people, not only learn about trees and forestry, but to actually become young foresters by planning, planting and managing the new trees themselves!"

"Meeting the Blenheim Palace Forestry team and Wonderwood's Imogen Radford will really inspire young people to understand the work that happens in our woodlands every day."

Fi McGregor, Head Teacher at Stonesfield School, said: "It was a privilege to be involved with the original OneOak project, our children got to know the OneOak tree, studying it, measuring it and drawing it.

"We then witnessed the unforgettable felling of the beautiful tree followed by the processing of the timber to make a range of oak products from furniture to fuel pellets.

"Returning to the woods to plant the OneOak acorns made us feel part of the life cycle of the OneOak. To be able to plant a OneOak sapling in our own grounds means that the OneOak story continues.

"Sylva and Blenheim have enabled our children to gain a better understanding of how felling trees contributes to woodland management and to the huge range of products one tree can provide.

"We are incredibly grateful to the staff of Sylva and Blenheim for giving us this fantastic opportunity and for helping us to plan and create a new wild garden space for play and for learning."

Roy Cox, Blenheim Palace Rural Enterprises Manager, said: “Trees and woodlands are often taken for granted in today’s world but projects like this are vital in engaging the next generations in forestry and the important role it has to play in the countryside we all enjoy.”

A dedicated team of foresters at Blenheim Palace manage nearly 2,000 acres of woodlands both inside and outside of the park walls. Within these woodlands the Palace supports education by providing Forest School sites, permissive access and demonstrations of forestry work.

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