

# Saddleworth Chronicle

# extra

FREE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2010

FANTASTIC SELECTION of SUMMER STYLES

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# Let's get fizzical

## Coca-Cola army helps Kathleen plant her 600 trees

by LEWIS JONES

A CONSERVATIONIST has helped to plant a new wood in Diggle with 600 donated trees and a helping hand from a drinks giant.

Kathleen Pearson wanted to leave something behind for future generations and so decided to plant out more than an acre of land in Diggle to create a woodland haven.

A mass of young saplings were delivered including oak, willow, ash and birch trees, donated by the Woodland Trust.

And through Oldham Volunteers, Kathleen enlisted the help of Coca-Cola, which sent an army of community workers to pick up their spades and help plant the trees.

Kathleen said: "I really wanted to leave an area for future generations to enjoy so I decided to plant the wood.

"Eventually we will build a path down to the area we're calling Thorns Beck Wood, where there



COCA-Cola employees Susan Renshaw and Jo Ford Mills (front) help plant ash saplings in Diggle with fellow workers Nick Scott, Matt Jackson, Saphir Cashman and Nick Crawley

will be benches for people to sit, relax and just enjoy the space.

"There were so many trees but I don't have 600 friends so the help from Coca-Cola was really appreciated, it was a brilliant day."

Kathleen, (62), who lives in Denton, bought the land in Huddersfield Road in 1982 as a place to keep her horses.

In May this year she registered The Diggers Charitable Trust to take care for sick or maltreated cats and sheep and promote conservation.

### Project

Kathleen has funded the project from her own pocket, creating a memory garden for animals and pulling together a

raft of volunteers known as the Land Army. The determined charity champion even travels to Diggle twice a day to take care of the animals as well as juggling her day job and setting up a 10-strong folk group to promote the charity.

She said: "We perform little ditties about the projects and have even got videos on YouTube.

"It feels wonderful to think that a part of me will live on after I have gone."

Kathleen is looking forward to seeing the trees grow with experts predicting the wood should be established within 12 years.

To help the charity or for more information visit [www.thediggers.co.uk](http://www.thediggers.co.uk).

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## Alistair's driving ambition

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## Battle for the ashes

Your Evening Chronicle, first with the scores and reports

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