

11<sup>th</sup> October 2007

## **Photocal**

**Date:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am  
**Venue:** Conkers Waterside, Bath Lane, Moira

### **Alliance & Leicester's growing support as Premier Benefactor of Heart of the Forest**

Alliance & Leicester is delighted to become a Premier Supporter of the Heart of the National Forest Foundation's flagship project, Heart of the Forest. The bank, whose head office is in Narborough, Leicester, will make an initial contribution of £60,000 over the next three years.

To celebrate its support, Sophie Robertson, Manager at Alliance & Leicester's Coalville Branch will meet Leicester school, Thomas Estley Community College, when pupils visit Conkers on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Sophie will join a class of 12 and 13 year-olds for their visit and take part in shelter-building and willow-weaving at Conkers.

**Stephen Woolfe, Chairman of the Heart of the National Forest Foundation said:** "We are absolutely delighted to announce Alliance & Leicester's support of Heart of the Forest and our educational activities.

"Alliance & Leicester has been one of the Foundation's earliest supporters. The bank's partnership with the Foundation, and its ongoing support, has been instrumental in the significant success of the Conkers Education Programme. The Programme currently attracts around 40,000 school children every year on educational visits, and with Alliance & Leicester's continued support we expect the Programme to go from strength to strength."

**Sophie Robertson, Manager at Alliance & Leicester's Coalville branch said:** "Alliance & Leicester has been proud to be associated with the work of the Heart of the National Forest Foundation for a number of years, and we are delighted to continue this support by contributing towards the development of the Conkers Education Programme."

**Press reporters and photographers are invited to Conkers on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am when Sophie Robertson will join pupils from Thomas Estley Community College on their educational visit to Conkers which will include willow-weaving in the woodland amphitheatre.**

More/...

**-Ends-**

**Press enquiries:**

**Susan Newsome or Emma Dunlop  
Heart of the National Forest Foundation  
Telephone 01926 832102**

**or**

**Lisa Hallam at Alliance & Leicester  
Telephone 0116 2003386**

**Alliance & Leicester Press Office Telephone 0116 200 3355**

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Heart of the National Forest Foundation is leading the creation of a 1000-acre wooded park with Conkers in its midst. Called Heart of the Forest, the project will transform the area in a very significant way and bring major benefits for the people who live there. The Foundation is currently inviting major local and national companies to become Premier Benefactors of Heart of the Forest.
2. Sir Derek Higgs, Chairman of Alliance & Leicester, recently became a Patron of the Heart of the National Forest Foundation.
3. Alliance & Leicester plc is one of the UK's major financial services groups and is a member of the FTSE 100 index. Its head office is in Leicester and the Bank supports a wide variety of educational projects, including the Conkers Education Programme.