Media Release

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photo opportunity – see below

PATHWAY TO FUN AND PINEWOODS FAMILY FUN DAY – 12 MARCH

Walking through the Pinewoods to RHS Harlow Carr is a popular walk and it has just been made a whole lot easier. Not only is there a better footway which wheelchair users and parents with buggies will be able to use, the walk will now also contain Information panels describing the flora and fauna.

The new path which will run from Harlow Moor Road to connect with the Crag Lane footpath, which in turn leads to RHS Harlow Carr. The pathway will be aptly known as the Memorial Pathway as it also takes in trees planted as part of the council's memorial tree scheme.

The Pinewoods' Conservation Group has created the path with a tremendous amount of help from the Junior Soldiers of the Army Foundation College.

They have worked in partnership with Harrogate Borough Council's Parks' team and an application has been made to register the path as a Public Right of Way.

The Mayor of Harrogate Borough, Councillor Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley will officially open the path on Saturday 12 March 2005 and the opening will also mark the start of the first Pinewoods' Family Fun Day.

Before the opening the Mayor will meet children from Harrogate Ladies College, Brackenfield School and St Peter's C of E Primary who helped to plant two tonnes of daffodil bulbs in the autumn. They will meet at the War Memorial in the Valley Gardens at 9.45 am and the Mayor will also unveil the first of a series of information panels. The party will then move to the recreation area for the opening event which will take place at 10.15 am.

Terry Knowles, Chairman of the Pinewoods Conservation Group said "I would like to thank all the members of the community who have helped in this project leading to the successful completion of the Memorial Pathway. At last we have good access throughout the whole of this wonderful woodland and already more people are walking through and appreciating this area of natural beauty".

The following events are being laid on for the Pinewoods' Family Fun Day between 10.00am and 3.00 pm and organisers are hoping for a good turn out for this free event:

- Story telling
- Treasure trail

- Tree climbing with the council's Arboricultural Team
- Guided walks
- Displays of the Pinewoods' Conversation Group's work
- Hot refreshments

The Mayor will be presenting various awards on the day including a special award to children from St Peter's C of E Primary School, Harrogate Ladies College and Brackenfield School who planted two tonnes of daffodil bulbs in the autumn. There will also be an opportunity to view the newly planted woodland to the rear of the Harrogate Spa Water Bottling plant.

Funding for the project was secured through the Tubney Trust, the Harry Bolland Trust, the George A. Moore Foundation, the Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust, Awards for All, district and county councillors' community fund, members' fundraising events and private donations. Finger posts will be erected along the path from the War Memorial to Crag Lane, which have been separately funded by Taylor's Tea.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: On Saturday, 12 March at 10.15am in the recreation area in the Pinewoods, the Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate, Councillor Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley will officially open the Memorial Path.

Note to Editors: The Pinewoods is century-old woodland originally planted to improve the beauty and charm of Harrogate. The Pinewoods' Conservation Group was formed in 2002 and is an active group of local residents committed to the conservation and enhancement of the woodland. The group has been instrumental in raising approximately £15,000 of funding and carrying out important projects within the wood along with volunteers and support from other community groups and is always looking for new members.

Further Information: Terry Knowles Chairman Pinewoods Conservation Group is available for comment on 01423 525014. Sheila Johnson, Secretary is available on 07980 372060. Further technical information is available from Alan Gilleard, Arboricultural Officer on 01423 556756.