

# Belated ceremony to mark diamond jubilee

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Trees have been planted at Buckingham Park in Shoreham to celebrate two organisations.

The National Women's Register (NWR) celebrated its diamond anniversary in 2020 and International Neighbours has been hosting an annual celebration of diversity in the town since 2009.

The tree planting has been planned for some time and on Thursday, the ceremony was finally able to take place, with the help of Chris Platt, founder of More Trees Please.

The NWR's Shoreham-by-Sea group decided to plant a tree as part of the national diamond jubilee, to leave a lasting reminder.

Lorraine Nightingale, local organiser, said: "Shoreham-by-Sea's friendly and lively NWR group started 20 years ago and split into two groups when numbers became too big, as meetings, until the Covid pandemic, were held in members' homes.

"Members enjoy discussions, talks, outings, quizzes, a book group and crafting activities, among other things.

"During the summer and autumn of 2020, socially-distanced meetings were held in the park and in members' gardens but we introduced



PICTURES: STEVE ROBARDS SR2104221 & SR2104222

Tree planting for the diamond anniversary of National Women's Register and, inset, Penny Joseph and Cathy Ford

Zoom meetings to encourage contact throughout the winter months."

The NWR began in February 1960, when many women were denied the opportunity to return to work after starting a family.

Maureen Nicol responded to an article in The Guardian, suggesting a national register could be established so housebound wives with liberal interests and a desire to remain individuals could contact like-minded friends, which was especially useful when moving to a new area.

Maureen was overwhelmed with requests to join 'her register', initially called the National Housewives' Register.

Lorraine said: "Sixty-one years on and NWR is a thriving, open-minded, welcoming, friendly and respectful organisation where members are interested in many different issues but particularly those relevant to women's lives."

International Neighbours is dedicated to the promotion of community cohesion by celebrating diversity, to build

positive relationships and create a strong and inclusive community.

Penny Joseph, chairman, said: "International Neighbours has been celebrating diversity with an annual festival in Shoreham Community Centre of music, performance, stalls and food from many different ethnic traditions.

"Obviously this has not been possible during Covid restrictions but we hope to be joining with the Lions' family day this year in Buckingham Park on September 5.