



## **JONATHON PORRITT APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**

*For immediate release*

*4<sup>th</sup> April 2014*

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), are delighted to announce that Jonathon Porritt, the leading sustainability expert, is to take over the Presidency in April 2014 from The Lord Norrie.

Jonathon is currently a Vice President of TCV, and has supported the organisation in many capacities over time. The Lord Norrie has been President since 1987, and is retiring.

Jonathon Porritt is the co-founder of Forum for the Future, and is an eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator on sustainable development. Established in 1996, Forum for the Future is now the UK's leading sustainable development charity, partnering some of the world's leading companies.

Jonathon has previously spent nine years providing high-level advice to Government Ministers as Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission. In February 2012 Jonathon was installed as the Chancellor of Keele University in February 2012.

Jonathon received a CBE in January 2000 for services to environmental protection.

TCV have been working with individuals and communities for 55 years (formerly as BTCV), using their expertise to train volunteers in how to transform their local outdoor green places. TCV are collecting a growing body of evidence on the positive effect that outdoor volunteering has on people's health, wellbeing and prospects. TCV is passionate about the positive impacts of improving green spaces and are looking forward to working with Jonathon to share their passion with a wider audience.

### **Commentating on the appointment, TCV Chairman, Rita Clifton, said:**

"We are absolutely delighted and proud that Jonathon has agreed to take up the role as President of TCV at such an important time for us. Jonathon has been a great supporter of TCV for many years, and his interests in the practical application and broader health and societal effects of sustainability are very much at one with our developing agenda.

"There has never been a more important time for TCV to work with people across the social and age spectrum to transform their health, prospects and outdoor places for the long term.



TCV's work provides a truly effective way of engaging communities in their own health and well-being, and we are thrilled that Jonathon will be involved as our new President.

"We are very grateful to The Lord Norrie for his many years of committed service at the highest level and very generous support for TCV, and we very much look forward to him staying involved with us in the future."

**Commenting on his appointment, TCV President, Jonathon Porritt, said:**

"I am delighted to be taking up the role of President of TCV, and I have long been an admirer of their very practical dedication to all elements of sustainability. Of particular interest at the moment is the impact that TCV's work has on the health and wellbeing of communities, from environmental, social and economic angles.

"We all need to help make some fundamental improvements to health outcomes, and initiatives like TCV's Green Gym have terrific potential to make a huge difference. I am very much looking forward to working with Rita, the CEO Julie Hopes and the wider organisation".

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors**

1. The Conservation Volunteers is one of the largest, most dynamic and effective volunteering organisations in the UK. TCV works together with people and communities to transform their health, prospects and outdoor places for the long term. Through a network of 2,000 community groups, volunteers head out in all weathers to take part in a wide range of activities including planting trees and hedgerows, clearing footpaths and building steps and styles.
2. The Conservation Volunteers grew out of the Conservation Corps founded in 1959. Its first project was held at Box Hill where 42 volunteers including TV presenter David Bellamy cleared dogwood to encourage distinctive chalkland flora. In 1970 the Conservation Corps began operating under the new name of British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and HRH Duke of Edinburgh became Patron.
3. In 2006 BTCV's new head office in Doncaster was opened by Ed Miliband, Minister for the Third Sector and wins awards for its environmentally sustainable design. In 2008 BTCV annual Spring into Action campaign involved 20,000 volunteers at 770 sites across the UK. BTCV became The Conservation Volunteers on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.



4. The Conservation Volunteers run a series of Green Gyms® around the country where experienced leaders guide people through practical outdoor projects improving their health and stamina whilst benefiting local green spaces. TCV is also a leading provider of recruitment and job preparation training supporting over 50,000 people to improve their lives and find a new direction.
5. For more information contact **Francesca Dobson** on **020 3463 0815** or email [Francesca.dobson@plmr.co.uk](mailto:Francesca.dobson@plmr.co.uk)