

## ELEMENTREE... a Cautionary Tale...

*'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it – the earth is the Lord's, the work of his hands...'* Psalm 24.

'God crafted a Garden of Excellence and called it Eden. God saw it was good and commissioned a man and a woman and their descendants to look after it.

As the centuries passed the human family got too clever for its own

good and the garden groaned. The winds howled, the land gasped, the seas rose, the rivers raged, the forests died, the scientists and indigenous peoples warned of the consequences of exploiting resources wastefully. Many heard but few listened – and the leaders of the nations were trapped in their political prisons.'



Storm Arwen trashed our local forests. On storm-felled tree at Wallington now lies as a monument to the event. It is named '**Elementree**'. The sculptor depicts along its length all the elements of our weather – sun, moon, rain, seas, wind, snow, ice, with the face of warning – 'Take heed', it seems to say; 'Prepare for times to come'.

A time to be fearful? Yes! A time for hope? Yes!

**A time for action? Yes... Transformation Now!**

Mothers Union supports mothers and family life. What can we do to help safeguard the environment for future generations? Reduce waste? Re-use? Recycle? Yes to all. But let's not forget the ability of the mighty tree to stabilise the environment.

In the shortages of the 30's and 40's we planted veg patches to support our families. Now we need to plant trees to help safeguard our grandchildren's families.

Costa Rica was at the forefront of environmental destruction but is now leading the world by example. Having lost half its rain forest to clearance for farming, it resolved in 1996 to reforest the land by planting trees. School children alone have planted 24,000 trees and 60% of the lost land is now regenerating new rain forest. In this country, the National Trust plans to establish 20 million trees by 2030. HOPE is alive.

MU Newcastle planted a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: this was a signal of intent. Could our 36 'branches' put 'roots' on their agenda? Could they encourage their local communities to plant trees? If every member of MU gifted a £5 sapling, that would be 93,000 trees across the UK: a fitting tribute to Her Majesty.