

Campaign branches out

by Angus Young

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A HULL-born businessman who is spearheading a global charity combating climate change is encouraging businesses to play a part.

Andrew Steel was educated at Andrew Marvell School in east Hull and still has family roots in the city.

Five years ago he launched the Plant A Tree Today (Patt) charity, inspired by his experiences working in forestry management in Thailand.

Now, the 40-year-old businessman, who is the charity's managing director in Thailand, said Hull firms can play a key role in tackling climate change and reforestation.

Two Hull companies have already signed up to the scheme – which aims to plant one million trees in Thailand this year.

The firms, driving school Eco-Drivers and Lowgate Garage in Sutton, have pledged to plant a tree for every pupil who passes their driving test and for every vehicle awarded an MOT.

Mr Steel is flying back to Hull later this month to launch the campaign.

InShort

A businessman who launched a global campaign to help protect the environment is urging Hull businesses to play their part.

He said: "My family still live in Hull, so I appreciate there continues to be tough decisions made on spending around local services.

"So when people step up to help communities thousands of miles away – and want to help address global issues – I remember why I am always proud to tell people I am from Hull."

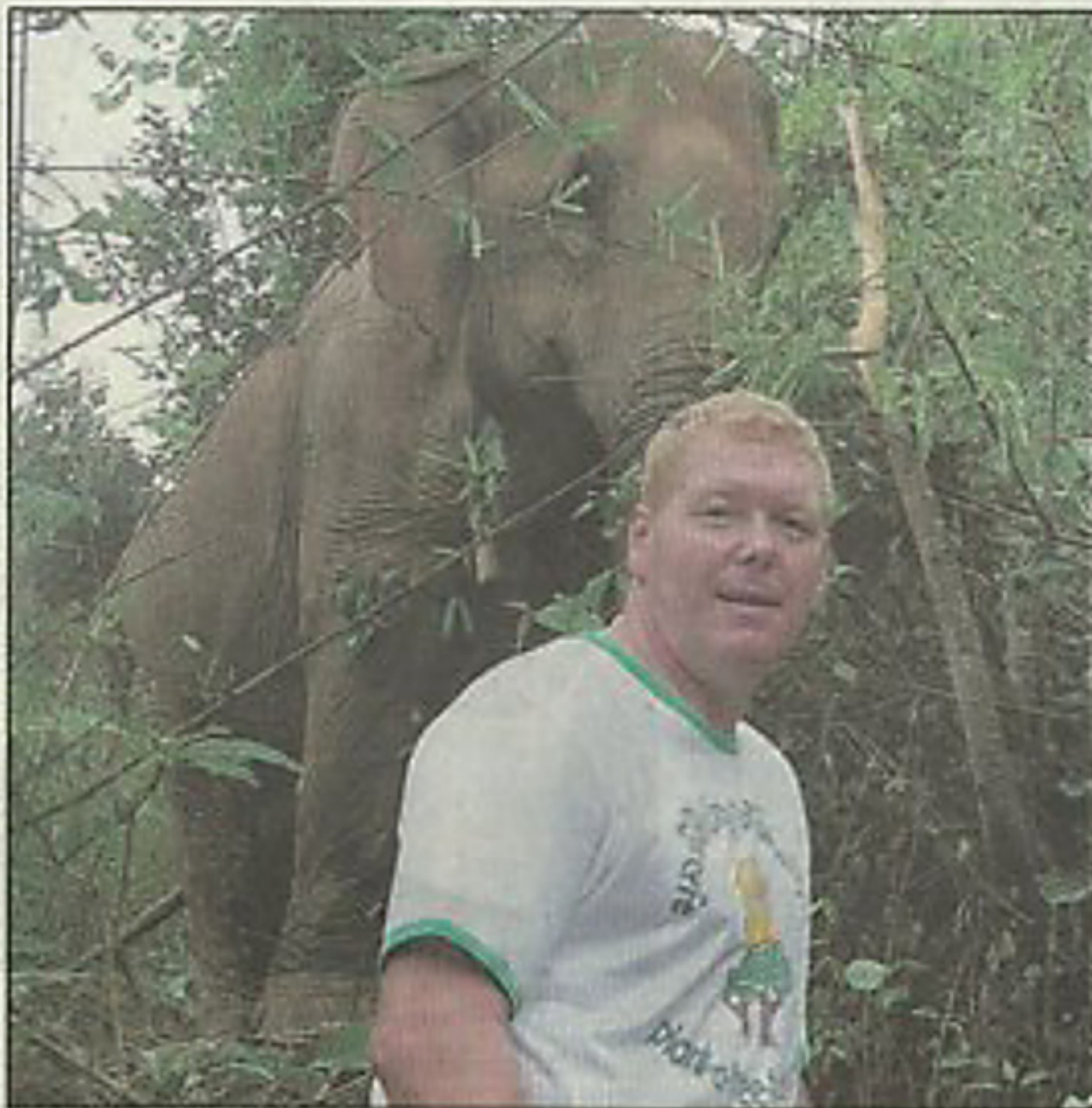
Emma Wells, a director at Lowgate Garage in Church Street, said: "We are just a small, family-run business, but we like to give something back as part of our charity work and to help different causes.

"I really feel strongly about climate change.

"Everyone has a role to play and we can make a difference by playing our part locally."

Mr Steel's charity has gone global since its launch in 2005.

It now has offices in Thailand, Indonesia and India, and works alongside the United Nations and a number of governments.



TREE FOR ALL: Andrew Steel, Hull-born founder of the Plant A Tree Today charity.