

# Knolls Wood your local patch of historic greenspace

Aug  
2022



Planted across 70 acres during the 1840s by a local Quaker from the prominent banking family the Bassetts, the woodland became the garden of The Knolls family home (which itself was named after the ancient burial mounds in its grounds).

The Victorian era craze for ornamental plants meant that by 1918 it was recorded as “pleasure grounds containing a unique collection of specimen non-deciduous trees and shrubs extending to nearly 33¼ acres”.

Reduced since by selling off and housing development, “our” Knolls Wood comprises 7½ acres and retains a number of the original specimen tree plantings now 180 years old! Giant Redwoods and unusual looking Chilean Pines lined the drive to the house - whose original cobble surface is still to be seen in “Monkey Puzzle Avenue”.

## Trees

- ❖ Help to prevent flooding
- ❖ Provide a home to lots of wildlife
- ❖ Clean the air we breathe
- ❖ Store carbon – combatting climate crisis
- ❖ Offer calm and cool relief

In 2021 we secured funding from Central Beds Council to continue the regeneration of the wood. We planted lots of whips and 7 saplings including Small-leaved Lime, Wild Ash and Rowan. We dedicated trees to the Queen’s Green Canopy project in honour of her Platinum Jubilee. You can see our entry on the QGC map [queensgreencanopy.org](https://queensgreencanopy.org)

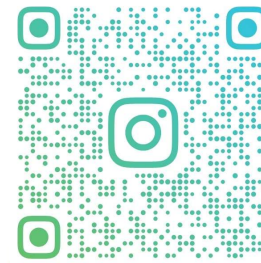


THE  
**QUEEN'S GREEN  
CANOPY**

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

[www.knollswood.com](http://www.knollswood.com)  
[Facebook.com/knollswood](https://Facebook.com/knollswood)

# we are the Friends of Knolls Wood



The Friends of Knolls Wood (steered by a committee drawn from its volunteer base) exist to safeguard, maintain and preserve the woodland (which includes its regeneration as appropriate) and its recreational and ecological value.

The volunteer team meets four times a year, on a Sunday for up to three hours always including a break - for coffee/tea & biscuits and for people to get to know one another and learn more about what needs be done.

There's an ongoing exercise of clearing and cutting back invasive plants (e.g. holly and brambles) so that other plants can survive, litter picking (vodka bottles a particular hazard!), as well as a new programme of hedge laying and tree planting.

The next volunteer session is on Sunday 25 Sept 2022. You'll be welcome to come along.

We will meet at 10.00am at the Sandy Lane Notice Board entrance (on the footpath - alongside the golf course's practice putting area).

The Greensand Trust provides equipment - loppers, bow saws and a wood chipper - and will instruct volunteers in their use. Bring your own gardening gloves if you prefer.

