

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.



Traditional hedge-laying along Sandy Lane – made by us!

A natural boundary, the hedge will provide shelter for wildlife to nest and rest.



We were absolutely delighted to welcome some new faces along to our action days in September, November and January; making great progress on our hedge. We hope we see you next time. Thanks goes to all the Volunteers, and our Greensand Trust Rangers.

The next volunteer session is on Sunday 25 June 2023. You are welcome to come along. (10:00 start [newly.awake.prove](https://www.newly.awake.prove))

Also, our AGM is open to the public and will be hosted at Rushmere on June 20 8pm. Find all info on our socials.

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



May
2023

Knolls Wood your local patch of historic greenspace

May
2023



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”.

In 2022 we secured a **second share** of funding from Central Beds Council to continue the regeneration of the wood. A large clearing was created after some trees became unsafe from age or disease. We planted this area with 4 field maple and 4 small-leaved lime standard size trees, which immediately made a strong visual impact.

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



Crafty constructs & their creators at our last kids event, October half term