

# Friends of Knolls Wood

## Newsletter



**SUMMER 2019 - Greetings from your Committee Members**

**Dates for your diary:**

**Next Volunteer Session: Sunday 23 June 2019, 10:00 – 12:00hrs  
Meet at the Sandy Lane Entrance (by the Notice Board) at 10:00.**

**FoKW Annual General Meeting:  
Tuesday 2 July 2019, Rushmere Park, at 20:00 hrs  
*Free Parking Tokens will be available***

***Please tell us what you want us to do or change***

### **Come and join our FoKW Committee**

The Friends are a group of local residents who work alongside the Greensand Trust to look after this special site. The Knolls Wood Association, as it was first called, was formed back in 1986 and we are now in our 33rd year, so it is not surprising that the committee membership has changed over time. In recent years, a few people have retired or moved away, so we are keen to recruit new members. A friendly group, we have just 4 Committee Meetings times a year and new members are invited to join at our AGM.

### **Volunteer Sessions**

Everyone is welcome at our Sunday morning volunteer sessions where, under the guidance of Greensand Trust, we maintain the woods. Please check our website: [knollswood.com](http://knollswood.com) or Facebook page: **Knolls Wood** for information and dates of the four 2019 volunteer sessions.

*Just one hour it could make a huge difference.*

If you can help in any way, or would like to join our committee, please contact us by e-mail: [Friends@knollswood.com](mailto:Friends@knollswood.com) or send a message to our Facebook page: **Knolls Wood**



## Trees – Nature's marvellous machines

Knolls Wood contains a unique collection of trees, and often we might concentrate on that variety rather than just appreciate what an amazing organism each one is.

Trees have been in existence for 370 million years, longer than humans, and considerably longer than the 50,000 years that Homo Sapiens first showed what we would regard as human-like behaviour.

The longest lived trees survive for thousands of years. Yew trees in churchyards often predate the church, and some in Britain are believed to predate the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Trees are among the most spectacular plants, with some redwoods growing up to 75 metres in height.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable features of trees (and other green plants) is their ability to build up complex molecules. Plants evolved the ability to capture and use the energy from sunlight long before solar cells, and the conversion of **water** (often in plentiful supply) and **carbon dioxide** (in danger of being in too plentiful supply) into sugars in photosynthesis is vital to the balance of life on the planet.

Transpiration, the movement of water through a tree and its evaporation from the leaves, is another miracle. Oak trees grow to between 20 and 40 metres and a large oak can lift over 150,000 litres (that's 150 tonnes) of water from below the ground each year and cool its leaves significantly as the evaporation increases in hot weather. It took humans centuries to be able to devise a pump which could lift water through a height of 10.3 metres, considerably less than the height of an oak tree.

The trunk of a tree is a wonderful composite material, rather like carbon fibre, able to flex yet strong and durable. Humans have made use of trees in engineering projects for centuries, and trees can also provide us with food, medicines and fuel (most of the essentials).

There are believed to be roughly 3 trillion trees on the planet, thankfully still vastly outnumbering the near 8 billion humans. We should be grateful that we have such fine specimens on our doorstep and appreciate each one for the miracle of evolution it is.

