

# we are the Friends of Knolls Wood

Summer  
2024



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.

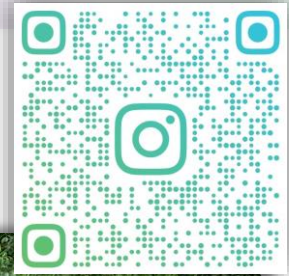
The volunteer team meets four times a year, on a Sunday for up to three hours always including a break - for coffee/tea & biscuits and for people to get to know one another and learn more about what needs be done.

We were absolutely delighted to welcome some new faces along to our action days and it was a great help in tackling overgrown laurel and rhododendron; pretty plants that unfortunately stunt biodiversity. Thanks goes to all the Volunteers, and our Greensand Trust Rangers.

The next volunteer Action Days are Sunday 22 Sept and 24 Nov 2024.

Our Annual General Meeting -which is open to anyone interested in the Knolls Wood and our activities- is coming up, hosted at Rushmere on 01 August at 7pm.

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



Some volunteers and our GST Ranger enjoying tea break in the sunshine during our summer Action Day, where the main task is to maintain the grass verges of the old carriageway

# Knolls Wood your local patch of historic greenspace

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The Friends led 2 public walks in spring, one for the Greensand Festival and the other for Great Big Green Week. It's such a pleasure to show off our woodland, the flowers, the birds and our work whilst enjoying fresh air and gentle exercise.

Also during that week was the Volunteer Fair where our representative was greeted by the Mayor. We are most grateful to our small Friend and her mum for dedicating their time.

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”.



## Upcoming dates:

- ❖ AGM Thurs August 1st
- ❖ Action Day Sun Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ❖ Kids Fun in Nature social day Oct 30<sup>th</sup> **FREE & open to all**
- ❖ Action Day Sun Nov 24<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ FKW Social - December