

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust



Friends Newsletter - Issue 14 - Winter 2021

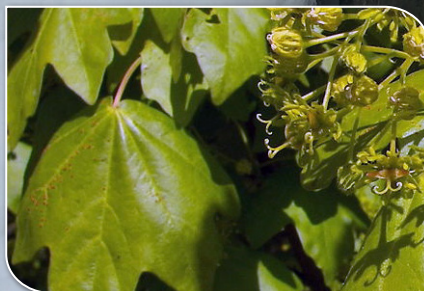
2021

WORKING WITH NATURE

Snow and the wettest year on record bring their own challenges and beauty!



Equestrian Centre
Big changes afoot...



Hedgerows
Field Maple Hedging



Woodland Plans
Getting it right

Maintenance, Planning, Hedging, Planting and a Pandemic...



St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

Will Saunders - our Woodland Manager Feb 2021

Will is clearing taking out trees infected with Ash Dieback and in an area where a Field Maple hedge will soon be planted

Dear Friends

We hope that you are staying well in these very difficult times from which we appear to be slowly emerging. We have met with many of you over the past year, at a distance, and it is appreciated when we hear the kind messages of support.

Our Woodland Manger Will Saunders has been working the land around North Bedfordshire for most of his life and he advises us that this year has been the wettest on record in the area. We have occasionally struggled with flooding but finally we seem to have come through it all and the woodland is alive with new growth. As the dry conditions continue we will also be able to make repairs to the access road, thank you for your patience over what has been a very hard winter.

We want to update you on

the activity which is taking place at Keysoe where things have been really busy lately.

The first thing that you will notice is that the Equestrian Centre is a hive of activity with bulldozers and diggers everywhere. This is because the centre has a new owner Sarah Stoute and she has big plans for the future of the equestrian activities at Keysoe.

Prior to her purchase an application had been made by the previous owner to build some houses on part of the land. Sarah however is committed to the future of Keysoe as a venue for horses and these plans have now been withdrawn.

Sarah is using the COVID lockdown as an opportunity to make new roads and entrances in and out of the centre which will make it much safer for vehicles and horses. There is a lot of

maintenance taking place with hedges being cut and a high level of investment. This means that you may encounter some slight delay on occasion if activity is taking place on the construction site, but please be patient as we believe this will make things much easier in the future and be to the advantage of all our visitors

In the woodland itself Will Saunders has been working flat out over winter. He has cleared the new land where we are seeking to expand and he has been working on the existing areas to remove trees which are diseased, especially the Ash.

Some healthy trees have also had to be removed simply because they are competing with each other and will not grow properly unless they have the space and light required. Where some trees have been removed we are also planting new trees

and several hundred have been planted already this year with more to come.

We will do all we can to minimise any disruption but please be patient and understand that we are investing in the future sustainability of the woodland.

As we go forward you will see more planting and removal of some of the poplar trees. These were all planted at the same time and are now, amazingly, half way through their life span.

We need to increase diversity in these areas so as to avoid the catastrophe of them all disappearing at once, either through age or disease.

This work all represents a

considerable ongoing investment and the trustees are committed to ensuring the longevity of our woodland as a beautiful place of rest.

Currently we are in discussion with Sarah as to her plans for the future of the centre. Given the enthusiasm and commitment which she has for Keysoe we are aware that she would like to make major investment in the facilities, including the provision for quality catering and hospitality which are high on her agenda.

The Trustees are meeting with Sarah to consider how this might be of benefit to our visitors and also how this might impact upon our plans for the building of a lodge.

The Trustees are meeting with Sarah to consider how this might be of benefit to our visitors and also how this might impact upon our plans for the building of a lodge.

We are committed to the building of a lodge in our woodland but need to carefully consider what will be the best provision for us.

These are exciting times and we are enthusiastic about the future. Thank you for your patience and support as we continue on the next stage of our exciting journey.

Best wishes

The Trustees



Woodland Map

Protecting The Environment

The last 12 months have been a trying time for us all, but life goes on and nature still needs a helping hand.

We remain committed to restoring ancient woodlands and associated fauna, creating in turn perfect habitats for insects, birds and animals across the entire spectrum.

Sometimes this balance is disturbed when people leave certain man-made objects in the woodland.

Some leak toxic chemicals into the ground whilst nearly all are dangerous to the animals that visit and try to eat them. We do our best to remove them and it pulls at our heartstrings when we do, but please, only use the bamboo flower pots we provide, remove cellophane and any packaging and avoid leaving anything else on or around the graves.

Thank you.



If you have access to the Internet, please consider following us on Facebook.

Facebook is an amazing tool helps us keep people well informed about the woodland.

We do use other social media platforms too, but Facebook is by and far the best for us.

Visit our website and just follow the links!



I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST £25 (5 YEARS)
(If enclosing a cheque, please make payable to St Albans Woodland Burial Trust)

Name

Address

(These details will NOT be passed onto third parties)

Email Address

Telephone Number

Please Gift Aid my donation (Yes / No)

(I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference)

Please return to:

The Administrator, St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY

Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com

website: <http://woodlandburialtrust.com>

Tel. Number (01234) 342 613

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

A not for profit charity restoring native woodland, fauna and wildlife in conjunction with woodland burials. Registered Charity No 1118216

Telephone (between 9am to 5pm):

Outside office hours:

E-mail contact:

Address:

Office

Mobiles

(01234) 342 613

(07436) 787 409 or (07973) 113 861

office@woodlandburialtrust.com

St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford, MK40 4PZ