

Friends Newsletter
No.5 Summer 2011



St Albans Woodland
Burial Trust

Registered Charity No. 1118216

Woodland Burial

The natural choice



Curlew Glade May 2011

For more information please visit our website www.woodlandburialtrust.com



Report for 2011 from the Company Secretary

Since its opening in early in 2007 and consecration by the Bishop of Bedford, the Rt Revd Richard Inwood in June 2007, the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust has seen a constant and growing requirement for the care, services and support we offer the dying and the bereaved.

Now in our fourth year of operation the momentum we had seen in previous years continued and in total over 60 burials and 40 interments of ashes have taken place since the Woodland Burial Ground was opened. Several benches have also been purchased by families of the bereaved and placed in the Woodland.

During the current year of operations significant enhancements have been made to the site and our operation. This year the development of the glades centred around the definition of a new glade named 'Goldcrest' and the further use of 'Curlew', opened last year. Our first glade, 'Skylark' is nearing full utilisation whilst 'Robin' continues to be open for appropriate burials. During the year biodegradable vases were developed by Mr Neil Kinselly and authorised by the Trust for use in the woodland. 10% of the proceeds from these pots is marked for reinvestment in the trees and flora for the site. Professional advice on planting and bio-diversity continues to be taken by the Trust as we seek to develop our long term vision.

Seeking to ensure a professional and caring approach to our operations, during the year the Trusts Vulnerable Adults, Health and Safety and Trustee Vetting Policies were all reviewed and revised and similarly the Job Descriptions for the roles of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustee (including Statement of Expectations) and Volunteer / Administrator were all reviewed and revised by the trustees.

The Trust's web site (www.woodlandburialtrust.com) continues to receive significant traffic and is a significant and increasing means of communication for the Trust.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust remains open to future developments within the context of its Memorandum of Association and the vision and objectives of the Trust. With most of the major infrastructure developments having been undertaken it is envisaged that future years will focus on the operations of the Woodland Burial Trust, the optimisation of management of the site and associated services, such as care and support for the bereaved and planning for the future. We are currently seeking the expansion of the woodland and progressing with a planning application for change of use of a further 10 acres of surrounding woodland. This increase is an exciting development which will enable the Trust to consider wider opportunities for biodiversity and protection of the natural environment as we develop the woodland setting. Please let us know if you have any comments or feedback.

The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Find us on the World Wide Web

St Albans Woodland Burial Ground now has a new website which we keep up to date with all of the latest news. You can find us at www.woodlandburialtrust.com

Our website now has some video which also appears on YouTube, we hope to develop this during the year to enable people to make a virtual visit to our woodland.



Memorial Benches

The benches at St Albans Woodland Burial Trust are carved by local woodworker Ed Burnett. Ed answers some common questions below:

We are often asked where the wood comes from for the benches. Well in keeping with our desire to be sustainable, we try and source all the wood we use locally and we are currently using timber purchased in Carlton and which was felled in Putnoe Wood in Bedford.



Oak is the best wood to use for these benches as it has natural tannins that help it to last a long time out of doors and it is a joy to carve. We enhance this natural longevity of oak timber by using eco-friendly timber treatment and we are reviewing our treatment at the moment to try and improve the appearance of the benches. Oak can crack, bend and warp after installation. This can be because oak of this dimension may take years to fully season, so it continues to dry out once the bench is constructed. The Beautiful British weather can also be challenging and the hot days of early summer and the long, icy winters of the past two years have put some extremes of temperature on the benches.

I have carved some unusual designs ranging from simple flowers, to complex Celtic patterns. Almost anything can be carved but we are careful to confirm any designs before starting carving. Designs are sometimes provided by the family and all the designs we use are hand drawn and carved using a mallet and chisels. Lettering and inscriptions vary in length and size and from this year we can also offer pyrography which makes carving stand out in black. Prices will vary for the carving but Linda Parry the Administrator will always be able to make the necessary arrangements. We are always happy to discuss options and give quotes at no cost.

Ed Burnett.

Memorial Vases

Biodegradable vases for woodland burial grounds are important to protect the environment. Of course people want to be able to leave flowers on a grave, but when you have lovingly gathered your flowers most people appreciate the opportunity to leave them in water so that the flowers don't die too quickly. We have been asked for help in providing vases or some form of container which would allow flowers to be left in water at graves. This raises problems of ensuring anything used is biodegradable and also not interfering with the mowing of the glades. We have now come up with what we believe will be the answer. Mr Neil Kinselly has produced for us bamboo vases which can be sunk into the ground. These will hold water very effectively, they are biodegradable and will not cause problems when graves are cut by the mower. If you would like one of these vases then we will be pleased to supply them for £5. They can also be posted to you, or we will fit them to a grave at your request for £10.





From the Administrators Desk

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust was created at a time of emerging awareness of the importance of sustaining the environment in an ecological friendly manner, coupled with an increasing demand on society to meet the spiritual needs of the bereaved. The trust exists to offer woodland burials in consecrated ground in a dignified and ecologically and environmentally sympathetic manner. We act with integrity, respect and dignity towards all people and we respect people of all cultures, faiths and beliefs.

The Trust is grateful to Linda Parry who has been our Administrator for four years, especially since she gives her time freely to

It has been a privilege to serve as Administrator for the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust and our fourth year of operation has seen the momentum continue. For the financial year ending 31 March 2011, there were 19 burials and 15 interments of ashes and scattering of ashes. In addition to this 34 reservations for burials and 10 reservations for the interment or scattering of ashes have been made and a number of memorial plaques and trees have been dedicated on the woodland site. Several benches have also been purchased by families in the Woodland and these provide a welcome place of rest. This represents a consistent use of the woodland and in total over 60 burials and 40 interments of ashes have now taken place since the Woodland Burial Ground was opened.

Our open day in May 2010 attracted over 150 people from many different parts of the country, a further testimony to the public demand for such burial sites and further open days are planned each year. Please feel able to contact me if you require any information and I will be pleased to help.

Linda Parry

	Burials	Interment of ashes	Reservation for burials	Reservation for ashes
June2007– March2008	12	6	13	9
April 2008-March 2009	13	9	15	9
April 2009-March 2010	20	13	37	7
April2010-March2011	19	15	34	10
Total	64	43	99	35

The table shows the figures of use for St Albans Woodland Burial Trust in each financial year since it was opened in 2007

We want you as our Friend !

We welcome you as a Friend of the Trust, five years membership is £25 and you will receive updates on progress at the woodland. Please complete the form and return it to us. You can now also register as a friend online at www.woodlandburialtrust.com

I would like to become a Friend of the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust £25 (5yrs)

If enclosing a cheque please pay to St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

Name

Address

These details will not be passed to any third party

Email

Telephone

Please Gift Aid my donations (Yes / No)

Please return to: St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. The Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry
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