



St Albans Woodland  
Burial Trust

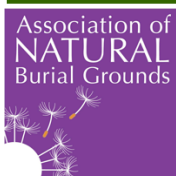
Registered Charity No. 1118216

## Woodland Burial

### *The natural choice*



Our fantastic team of volunteers turned out in August for a special day working in the woodland to top up graves and sow new grass seed. It was a hot day but that meant that we were able to move over ten tons of soil and a large amount of compost without causing any damage to the grass which is looking so nice in all our glades. There is no doubt that every year the woodland is looking better as trees mature and we make progress in encouraging wildlife and caring for the glade areas. Thank you for helping us by taking note of the rules about not planting or marking graves etc. We are helping nature create a natural woodland and we want it to be perfect for generations to come.



#### **St Albans Woodland Burial Trust (Registered Charity No. 1118216)**

Located via The College Equestrian Centre Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP.

Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry, c/o St Mark's Church Community Centre Tel/Fax +44 1234 342613  
Email: [office@woodlandburialtrust.com](mailto:office@woodlandburialtrust.com). Outside office hours contact 07922 053740 or 07973 113861.

For information visit our website [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)





## From Linda Parry - Administrator

This has been another busy year because although burials have not increased we have seen a substantial increase in the number of people reserving grave spaces. It is always a tremendous privilege to be trusted to speak with people who are making arrangements for their funeral and I am pleased that after dealing with so many funeral arrangements I am able to offer support as well as practical suggestions.

This year we have seen our new glades really start to take shape with the grass growing well and the thinned trees starting to make real growth. This summer has been quite dry in the woodland but our trees have thrived in the warm summer days and I am delighted that our visitors are so complimentary when they visit. I have to say a huge 'thank you' to Will Saunders who takes care of the maintenance of our woodland. He is so professional and competent with decades knowledge of land management, but we all know how careful and conscientious he is in looking after our glades and managing the woodland.

I would like to also express my thanks to the team of volunteers who spent the day in the woodland recently caring for the graves. Over ten tons of soil and many more of compost were moved to prepare and seed graves. This was a labour of love so please do support us in ensuring that everybody keeps to the rules of the woodland as set out by the Trustees. Our vision is that the woodland remains as natural as possible and we do not want to look like a commercial cemetery. It is really important that we do not have separate planting on graves and we need to make it as easy as possible for Mr Saunders to mow the area to keep the glades looking cared for.

As we look to the future we would like to provide an undercover area for our visitors in the form of a memorial lodge. This will be in keeping with the ethos and vision of the Woodland Burial Ground and maintain our environmentally friendly standards. We believe this calm and quiet space set amidst the Woodland Burial Ground will further enhance the ministry and service we are able to offer and provide a place of sanctuary and peace to all who come here. We would be very interested to hear your views and if you would like to contribute towards this project then your support would be very much appreciated.

## Linda

*This year we have seen a reduction in the number of burials but a significant increase in the number of reservations. This has meant that Linda and her very supportive husband Edward have been very busy meeting with people who wanted to discuss funeral arrangements. The Trustees are incredibly grateful to Linda and Edward for volunteering and carrying out this invaluable service to our visitors and looking after the management of the woodland.*



## Kate's Story

It was a tragedy when John Edward Kinns was killed by an electric shock whilst surveying a railway bridge. He was subsequently laid to rest in our woodland on 23 December 2008. His wife Kate has produced a remarkable video about safety at work, part of which was filmed in the woodland. It is a powerful message about health and safety, and also gives an insight into the grief we feel when death takes from us a special person. You can see the video on <https://youtu.be/hRr0Euf1Yrk> or click on the link on the front page of our website



## **Delia Shephard is a Civil Celebrant who has seen the Woodland from a professional and a very personal perspective.**

I am a civil celebrant practising in the Bedfordshire area. My work involves devising and conducting civil funeral ceremonies for families who want a bespoke funeral ceremony driven by the wishes and beliefs of the person who has died.

Every person and every funeral is unique. It is my privilege to help families achieve exactly what they want from this important rite of passage whether it is entirely secular or incorporates elements of religious traditions.

I have been a civil celebrant for over 5 years and have conducted funeral ceremonies in many diverse and unusual locations. In my experience interment ceremonies in the tranquillity of St Albans Woodland Burial often bring a sense of peace and acceptance. Mourners say an unhurried goodbye

to their loved ones as they return their remains to the earth in a natural way.

I chose this burial ground for my own dearly loved father and continue to derive great comfort from the calm beauty of his final resting place. Delia

If you would like to use the services of a civil celebrant for a funeral or a home visit to plan the funeral, then Delia can be contacted direct or via your funeral director. Her contact details are telephone 07753 843446 or email [deliamsh@hotmail.com](mailto:deliamsh@hotmail.com)

## **A Memorial Lodge for the Woodland ?**



As we look to the future we would like to provide an undercover area for our visitors in the form of a small wooden lodge. This will be in keeping with the ethos and vision of the Woodland Burial Ground and maintain our environmentally friendly standards. We believe this calm and quiet space set amidst the Woodland Burial Ground will further enhance the ministry and service we are able to offer and provide a place of sanctuary and peace to all who come here. Please let us have your views.



**'A beautiful, green, safe haven -  
a place of peace and love for me and the  
one I love.'**

What a lovely day we had celebrating mums life at Woodland Burial Trust, Keysoe. That may sound a strange thing to say, given her death had been such a shock to my family, but it absolutely was. I knew nothing about the Burial Trust until I read of it in her will and subsequently went into panic. I felt out of my comfort zone at a time when family was counting on me to make the arrangements. Thank

goodness for Linda, she waited patiently whilst I got lost, explained what the options were and gave me sound wisdom about what has worked for others, given my inexperience of organising a funeral. Having a small ceremony was the right thing to do as it allowed for tears and sadness to flow as Linda read some moving passages, that none of my family would have managed. It was so dignified and truly calm. The plot is marked with a simple wooden plaque, under a tree, where the gentle breeze whistles through the leaves, giving this place a strong sense of life and energy. The most amazing thing was how Linda completely put herself out and arranged at very short notice to host the ceremony on a Sunday to tie in with my family's travelling arrangements. I was blown away. Thank you so much.

*Sian Peer*



**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  
St. Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY. Tel/Fax 01234 342613  
Email: [office@woodlandburialtrust.com](mailto:office@woodlandburialtrust.com) [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)

**Figures for St Albans Woodland Burial Trust in each financial year since it was opened in 2007**

	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
April 2011-March 2012	13	13	36	23
April 2012-March 2013	18	18	43	16
April 2013-March 2014	26	14	52	16
April 2014 - March 2015	33	29	32	17
April 2015 - March 2016	19	12	46	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>134</b>