

## St Albans Woodland Burial Trust seeks consecration of additional woodland

The Trustees have agreed to seek the consecration of the land surrounding their existing woodland. Consecration is important in providing the greatest protection for land available in English law. In agreeing to explore this move, the charity is furthering our founding principles by providing the opportunity for burial in a way which does not pollute, but creates a nature reserve, a haven of natural beauty and wildlife. A larger site of ten acres would afford greater opportunities for encouraging wildlife and biodiversity. We are currently speaking to professionals to ensure that we make the right decisions for the long term protection and maintenance of the woodland.



*Proposed area which St Albans Woodland Burial Trust wish to be consecrated as part of the Woodland Burial Ground*

**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](http://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  
St. Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY. Tel/Fax 01234 342613  
Emergency numbers or outside office hours 07922053740 or 07973 113861  
Email: [office@woodlandburialtrust.com](mailto:office@woodlandburialtrust.com) Website [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)



St Albans Woodland  
Burial Trust

Registered Charity No. 1118216

Friends Newsletter  
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## Woodland Burial *The natural choice*



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





## Dear Friends

It seems hard to think that we are now into our third year at St Albans Woodland Burial Trust and the woodland in Keysoe is really starting to look beautiful after the work which has taken place. New trees have been planted to replace some of those which we have removed, enabling us to create a more diverse managed woodland. There have been many new benches provided this year and the woodland is a beautiful and peaceful place to visit.

Thank you for all of the kind comments which I receive as I meet people and make arrangements, before and after a funeral. This year somebody wrote to me, *'I was moved with tears of joy to see my daughter resting in such wonderful surroundings....just exactly where she would have wanted ... and now it is my turn to consider my future.'*

This is typical of the kind of comments which I regularly receive and it is a privilege as Administrator to lead the team which is dedicated to providing this special place of comfort and tranquillity. Please do feel able to contact us at any time if you have any questions about reservations of grave space, interment of ashes, or anything at all. I am always pleased to speak with you and perhaps to arrange a meeting at the woodland.

*Linda Parry* (Administrator)

## Choosing a funeral plan



Those people who choose woodland burial have usually taken more time to think carefully about their decisions. It is especially helpful when you are considering woodland burial to have all of your wishes clearly set out. Some people also appreciate the reassurance of taking out a funeral plan so that that all the financial arrangements are taken care of. A good funeral plan will enable you to rest assured that your personal funeral wishes will be granted and your plan will fix the funeral director's costs at today's prices. It is therefore a straightforward way to ease the

financial and emotional burden on your family. Obviously you should be careful about which product you buy as not all offer good value, however these plans can provide financial and practical help for your loved ones, at an already distressing time. We are pleased to speak with you and make recommendations based upon your circumstances. It is important that the product which you choose guarantees that all the funeral directors costs will be paid and makes provision for third party costs (sometimes known as disbursements), including woodland burial.

**Find us on the World Wide Web** St Albans Woodland Burial trust has a website which we keep up to date with all of the latest news. You can find us at [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com) Please visit us and complete our new online survey.

Our website also has a brand new video of the woodland taken by Mr Chris Water and the latest photographs which show the woodland coming to life in Spring this year.



*Peter Aspinall of Garlicks in his workshop*

## Environmentally friendly woodland memorials

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust recognises the importance which many people attach to an appropriate memorial at a grave. In commercial cemeteries it is common practice for memorials to be erected made from natural stone such as granite, imported from across the world. The Trustees prefer a more sustainable alternative and have authorised the use of wooden memorials which are inscribed locally by Mr Peter Aspinall. Peter has provided dignified oak memorials which are sympathetic to the setting of our woodland and which provide a personal, individual tribute. We asked Peter to describe how he produces his memorials.

The oak which I use for the production of the simple crosses, plaques and memorial posts is kiln dried. Due to the restriction of lettering space for the crosses and plaques the wording is kept quite simple. This allows for the letters to be large enough to read easily and for them to last longer. The memorial posts are larger, and there is a greater opportunity for the family to be involved in the designs and the wording. I will usually work with clients to produce a special design which is particularly appropriate. One of the first steps is to produce layout drawings for the family to approve, before commencing work.

The designs and the lettering are first cut into a stencil, I will either use a computer or draw by hand, depending on the complexity of the designs. These are then lightly sandblasted into the oak to produce a clear outline to work from. At this stage I use a pyrography machine to burn the letters and the design deeply into the wood, so that it can be seen easily and last longer. Once the design and the lettering have been burnt into the wood, a wire brush is used to get rid of any loose carbon deposits and the timber is sanded to ensure a clean edge. An environmentally friendly organic oil is then used to highlight the designs and to help preserve the oak. A second coat of oil is brushed in prior to fixing. I avoid the use of varnish and other substances, although these might preserve the oak more effectively, I seek always to use a natural and environmentally friendly product. For the same reason, the crosses and plaques are glued together, to avoid the use of nails or screws. Finally the posts are buried approximately 14" into the ground with about 28" above ground level.

The oak will last a long time, but inevitably, out in all weathers, the timber will deteriorate over time. Small cracks will appear, especially in very dry weather. They will be less obvious when it rains and the wood swells. The object of the woodland burial ground at Keysoe is to maintain a natural environment and a place where families can experience a peaceful experience, encouraging an environmentally friendly burial ground. It is always my intention to be sympathetic to these aims, which make this such a special place.

*Peter Aspinall*



*Two memorials which Peter recently made and placed in Curlew Glade*