

FRIENDS OF EMERY DOWN

England & Wales - Charity number 1162730

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-07-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Website http://www.basildon-berks-pc.gov.uk/basildon-berks/friends_of_emery_down-20268.aspx

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("OBJECTS") ARE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED TO THE FOLLOWING:3.1 TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH FOSTERING AN APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE FLORA, FAUNA, WILDLIFE AND NATURAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE WOOD KNOWN AS EMERY DOWN, IN THE PARISH OF BASILDON, BERKSHIRE.3.2 TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY THE PROVISION OF A "WOODLAND CLASSROOM" FOR USE BY LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN AND DESCRIPTIVE BOARDS TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC HABITATS, TREES AND PLANTS WITHIN THE WOOD, THEREBY BROADENING THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURAL WORLD.

Activities: The conservation protection and improvement of the natural environment of the wood known as Emery Down, in the parish of Basildon, Berkshire.Provision of a "woodland classroom" for use by local school children and descriptive boards to identify specific habitats, trees and plants within the wood, thereby broadening their knowledge and understanding of the natural world.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- West Berkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-19	£338	£3,115	-	-
2024-07-19	£2,945	£889	-	-
2023-07-19	£0	£3,743	-	-
2022-07-19	£0	£261	-	-
2021-07-19	£0	£310	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANNE MARGARET DEWING		2015-07-17
Alison Sarah Elliott		2024-03-05
Fiona Fountain		2025-09-10
Roger de Berdt Hovell		2023-03-01
Sarah Strang		2023-03-01
Stephen Noble		2023-03-01

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Trustees Annual Report 2024/25

The Wood is maintained by the Charity as a special community space open to all and is used by the nearby primary school.

The ecology company previously appointed to produce a biodiversity audit provided its report early in 2025. The Trustees have considered the report's recommendations to improve the biodiversity of the Wood and will begin to implement various measures from early 2026. A related objective for the next year is to create and install information boards for display in the Wood using funds provided by Basildon Parish Council.

The Trustees have identified a handful of trees that are priorities for reduction or removal in the interest of public safety. Planning permission has been sought and granted where necessary. A dead oak tree on the western boundary is proving difficult to reduce to a monolith as it has been identified as ideal habitat for hibernating and/or breeding bats.

Alice Smith resigned as a Trustee in April 2025. The Charity places on record its gratitude for Alice's contribution over the previous two years. There were no other changes to the Trustee group during the year.

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Trustees Annual Report 2023/24

In October 2023, the Charity's founder and chairman, Edward Golton, passed away. The Trustees state for the record their immense gratitude to Edward for his vision and action to protect Emery Down (the Wood) for the benefit of wildlife and the community of Upper Basildon. The Charity was fortunate to receive donations in Edward's memory.

In March 2024, original trustee and secretary Peter Twitchett stepped down from his duties. Again, the Trustees express their gratitude for Peter's substantial contribution over the previous nine years.

At the same time, the Charity was pleased to recruit the services of a new trustee, Ali Elliott.

The Wood is maintained by the Trustees as a special space open to the public and used by the nearby primary school. In view of this, Basildon Parish Council kindly awarded two grants during the year. The second grant is ringfenced for publicising findings and implementing recommendations from a biodiversity audit commissioned by the Trustees in 2024. The final report from the appointed ecology company is expected early in 2025.

As the financial year drew to a close, it became apparent that a small number of trees would need particular attention during 2024/25 to ensure public safety.

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Trustees Annual Report 2023

The Trust has been fortunate in recruiting four new Trustees, Roger Hovell, Stephen Noble, Alice Smith, and Sarah Strang. All are local to Upper and Lower Basildon, represent a range of skills and backgrounds and all are keen to ensure the Wood remains a valuable asset for the Village, the School and the public in general. The new Trustees have brought fresh ideas to the management of the Wood.

During the year, there have been no formal Working Parties in the Wood though one is now scheduled for October 2023.

Trustees had been concerned over the future financial viability of the Wood, given the increasing costs of any tree work necessary to maintain public safety.

The Wood is maintained by the Trustees as a resource open to the public and made available to the School. Following a presentation to the Parish Council a modest grant has been offered which we hope will be renewed annually.

Edward Golton Chairman October 2023

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Trustees Annual Report 2022

The mixed hedge planted along the boundary has survived the Summer drought quite well but some Hawthorns have died and will be replaced.

Unfortunately, a large Oak tree in the middle keeled over in the February gales. Trustees decided it needed to be cut down for safety and gained approval of the WBC Tree Officer. This was done mid-Summer together with cutting back several trees affected by Ash dieback and overhanging Ashampstead road, a possible danger to traffic: several dead Cherries were also cleared.

The West Berkshire Countryside volunteer team working party for November 2020 was cancelled as a result of the Covid situation but they came in November last year. Work included cutting up the large fallen Pine mentioned last year, cutting up dead Cherries and did a general clearing up with a good bonfire. We are grateful for their help.

Trustee Mark Stanley decided to stand down this year and will need to be replaced. We thank Mark for his founding work with our Charity and for much work and advice on the wood, which he hopes to continue with.

Edward Golton Chairman October 2022

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Trustees Annual Report 2021

The mixed hedge planted along that boundary last year has survived the dry spells quite well, but some watering was needed at the upper end.

The Hazel coppice of a dozen whips planted in an open area at the upper end is growing well. Also, a large Hazel bush from a local garden was transplanted successfully to fill a gap further up at the Aldworth road boundary.

The West Berkshire Countryside volunteer team working party in November 2020 was cancelled because of the Covid situation and Trustees will be meeting on site to assess work needed on their next visit, including clearing the large fallen Pine mentioned last year.

Edward Golton Chairman September 2021

