

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



from the
FOW Steering Group

Upcoming Events

Members' meeting

Wednesday 15th December,
7.30pm

We look forward to meeting you at the next Members meeting at Shrewsbury House where Steve Agnew (a local bee keeper) will be giving a talk about bees.

Winter Bird Walk

Saturday 18th December, 9am

To book a place on the above walk, or for more information please email

suereve@virginmedia.com

Walks are free to members and children, or £3 for over 16s.

Pintoo Datta



We were sad to learn recently of Pintoo Datta's death last year and that we had made an error in the spelling of his name on the Castle Wood Rose Garden Board. Pintoo and his family are long standing supporters of FOW and we are sorry for the upset this error has caused to Krishna, her family and friends.

Hello Friends

As the year draws to a close, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas, and to thank you for your support throughout the year. I personally thank everyone who has turned out to help with the conservation work, or who has helped to clear litter and garden waste. A huge thanks also to everyone who has maintained the rose gardens, especially to keep the Castle Wood rose garden looking so fabulous.

Thank you to the 4,753 people who signed the petition supporting FOW's campaign against the proposed housing development at Shepherd Leas, it was recently presented to a Full Council Meeting.

The task of protecting the woodlands seems unending. Please be assured, however, that we will be as vigilant as ever in the next year and will continue to implement the organisation's objectives of protecting the flora and fauna of the woodlands.

Tom Wareham, Chairperson

Need to Know

You can be a Friend of Oxleas Woodlands, a volunteer-run community organisation. For more information see our website or email oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com

www.oxleaswoodlands.uk

For More Information

@OxleasFriends

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

Nature Notes: *Parrotia persica*

Persian Ironwood

Beautiful stranger in the woods

In November, beside a narrow path between Oxleas Meadows and Jackwood you will see the yellow glow of a magnificent foreign tree. Its leaves can easily be mistaken for beech, alder or witch-hazel -to which it is closely related. Later in winter, its bare stems bring forth dense clusters of dark red flowers, followed by glossy green leaves in the spring. The bark is similar to that of the London Plane tree, a flaking patchwork of grey, pinkish yellow and brown.

Named after the German naturalist Georg Friedrich Parrot, this plant's only natural habitats are the forests of the Caspian region in northern Iran and Iranian Azerbaijan, where the tree's existence is believed to date back some 6,000 years. Its cultivation commenced in St Petersburg Botanical Garden in the mid-19th century and shortly afterward in Kew Gardens.

The common name Persian Ironwood reflects the wood's exceptional strength, admired all over the world. Products made from the Ironwood tree are reported to last for hundreds of years without deteriorating. Unfortunately, whilst the tree grows quite easily, thanks to the demand for its super strong timber, in its native Azerbaijan it has become a target for intensive illegal logging sending it on the local endangered species list.

The mystery of when and who planted this beautiful specimen in Jackwood will probably remain unanswered, but despite being a stranger amongst oaks and horse chestnuts, I am grateful for its unassumingly beautiful presence.



Persian Ironwood
Nature Notes by Marketa Koskova
Image by Gareth Evans

Volunteering Dates

December

Woodland Conservation
Friday 3rd, 10am-1pm
Saturday 11th, 10-1pm
Friday 17th, 10am-1pm

Rose Garden
Saturday 4th, 10-noon
Friday 10th, 2-4pm

January

Woodland Conservation
Saturday 8th, 10am-1pm
Friday 14th, 10am-1pm
Friday 28th, 10am-1pm

Rose Garden
Friday 7th, 1-3pm
Saturday 15th, 10am-noon

Litter Picking
Wednesday 19th, 10-noon
Saturday 22nd, 10-noon

For more information email
oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com



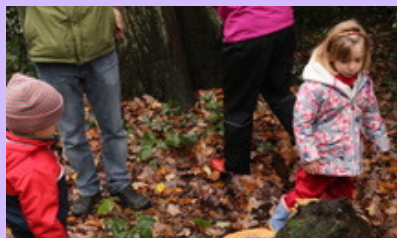
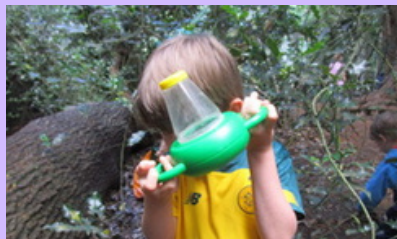
Seasonal Family Explorer

Sunday 23rd January, 10:15am

Experience the seasonal woodland changes in an interactive and fun way for the whole family.

A guided walk with a difference, involving games, role play, shelter building and creativity.

The activities vary with the season, but some will be repeated for comparison so we encourage your family to sign up for the year and really explore these wonderful woodlands.



Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

FOW ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS CALENDAR 2022

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Rose gardening Friday 7th	Rose gardening Friday 11th	WCG Friday 4th	WCG Friday 1st	Rose gardening Friday 13th	WCG Friday 3rd	WCG Friday 1st	Rose gardening Friday 12th	WCG Friday 2nd	Rose gardening Friday 7th	Rose gardening Friday 11th	WCG Friday 2nd
Shooters Hill Woodland Work party (SHWWP) Saturday 8th	SHWWP Saturday 12th	Rose gardening Friday 11th	Rose gardening Friday 8th	SHWWP Saturday 14th	Rose gardening Friday 10th	Rose gardening Friday 8th	SHWWP Saturday 13th	Rose gardening Friday 9th	SHWWP Saturday 8th	SHWWP Saturday 12th	Rose gardening Friday 9th
Woodland Conservation Group (WCG) Friday 14th	Litter pick Wednesday 16th	SHWWP Saturday 12th	SHWWP Saturday 9th	Litter pick Wednesday 18th	SHWWP Saturday 11th	SHWWP Saturday 9th	Litter pick Wednesday 17th	SHWWP Saturday 10th	WCG Friday 14th	Litter pick Wednesday 16th	SHWWP Saturday 10th
Rose gardening Saturday 15th	WCG Friday 18th	Litter pick Wednesday 16th	Rose gardening Sunday 10th	WCG Friday 20th	Rose gardening Sunday 12th	WCG Friday 15th	WCG Friday 19th	WCG Friday 16th	Rose gardening Sunday 16th	WCG Friday 18th	WCG Friday 16th
Litter pick Wednesday 19th	Rose gardening Sunday 20th	WCG Friday 18th	Litter pick Wednesday 13th	Rose gardening Saturday 21st	Litter pick Wednesday 15th	Rose gardening Saturday 16th	Rose gardening Sunday 21st	Rose gardening Saturday 17th	Litter pick Wednesday 19th	Rose gardening Saturday 19th	Rose gardening Sunday 18th
Litter pick Saturday 22nd	Litter pick Saturday 26th	Rose gardening Saturday 19th	WCG Friday 15th	Litter pick Saturday 28th	WCG Friday 17th	Litter pick Wednesday 20th	Litter pick Saturday 27th	Litter pick Wednesday 21st	Litter pick Saturday 22nd	Litter pick Saturday 26th	
Family Explorer Sunday 23rd 10.15am		Litter pick Saturday 26th	Litter pick Saturday 23rd		Litter pick Saturday 25th	Litter pick Saturday 23rd		Litter pick Saturday 24th	WCG Friday 28th		
WCG Friday 28th			WCG Friday 29th			WCG Friday 29th		WCG Friday 30th			

Litter picking, SHWWP and Woodland Conservation sessions start at 10am.