

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



from the
FOW Steering Group

Happy New Year Friends,

Are you looking to take on the challenge of protecting and conserving Oxleas Woodlands in 2022? Then read on, this is our **Volunteer Special Edition** where you can find out more about the ways that you can get involved.

We know that you might have limited time to offer, or health problems that restrict your mobility, or perhaps you find it difficult to join a new group, but we have many ways that you can support FOW's work. You will be made welcome and we offer flexible volunteering to accommodate your individual situation.

This month we are giving a bit more detail about our main volunteering roles but if you would like more information or you have skills and experience you would like to share please do get in touch by emailing oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com.

We look forward to volunteering alongside you in 2022.

Sue Reeve, FOW Secretary

Volunteering Dates

January

Friday 7th, 1-3pm Rose Garden
Saturday 8th, 10am-1pm SHWWP*
Friday 14th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Saturday 15th, 10am-noon Rose Garden
Wednesday 19th, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Saturday 22nd, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Friday 28th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation

February

Friday 11th, 2-4pm Rose Garden
Saturday 12th, 10am-1pm SHWWP*
Wednesday 16th, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Friday 18th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Sunday 20th, 10am-noon Rose Garden
Saturday 26th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

*Shooters Hill Woodlands Work Party

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

Woodland Conservation

Our work is varied and no special skills are required; all ages and abilities will be welcomed. We build dead hedges to protect areas, improve paths for walking, do stream and pond clearing, clear invasive species, coppice and reduce brambles. Some tools are provided by the Park Rangers but you must bring your own gloves.

The Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party (SHWWP) meets on the second Saturday of the month at Oxleas Café. Starting at 10am this sociable group works through to about 1pm with a tea-break. Tools, tea and biscuits, are provided by the Council and a ranger is on-hand to offer experience and advice.

The Friends of Oxleas Woodlands continue the Woodland Conservation on the first and third Fridays after the SHWWP session. We collect tools from the Oxleas Centre at 10am and again work until about 1pm with a refreshment break.



Rose Gardens

Our first major project was the restoration of Castle Wood Rose Garden. Volunteers reclaimed the beds, filled them with fresh compost and planted 265 new roses - but the work hasn't stopped there.

Our volunteers continue to meet twice a month, one Friday afternoon and one weekend morning per month (alternating Saturday and Sunday to provide maximum opportunities for you to get involved). We meet in either Castle Wood or Jack Wood rose gardens depending on whichever one most needs our attention that week, so we recommend letting us know you intend to join us so we can provide directions or meet you in a car park.

The work is generally light and only requires gloves and a small hand fork (we can loan these if required). Other useful tools like hoes and edging shears can also be used if sitting on the floor is not for you. You do not need gardening experience, but any you do have is very welcome as we are all learning as we go.

Working in the rose gardens is particularly rewarding as we have the opportunity to interact with park users who often reminisce about their memories of rose-scented summers.



If you would like to join us occasionally, on a regular basis or simply to find out more please contact us at oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

Litter Picking - more fun than it sounds!

A friendly group of volunteers meet each month, on a Wednesday and Saturday morning to work together for a couple of hours to clear different areas of the woodlands of all kinds of rubbish. We mainly pick up routine litter such as bottles and food wrappers but on occasions also need to remove garden waste or larger items. We provide all the equipment you need although it is best to bring your own gloves. We have cleared literally tons of litter from the woodland and by doing this have removed threats to the wildlife and plants within the woodlands; as well as making it a more pleasant place for everyone.



Fundraising

The restoration of the Castle Wood rose garden to its former glory with the communal planting of 265 roses was only made possible through the generous support of Members and the public for the fundraising campaign which included sponsoring a rose and events such as Gardeners' Question Time and pruning master classes.

Supporting campaigns

Members have given generously of their time in supporting FOW's recent campaign against the development at Falconwood. Raising awareness, signing the Petition and encouraging others to do so, demonstrated to the Council and Developer the strength of opposition. If you are interested in finding out more about the campaign, please let us know.

We have ambitious plans for improving the woodland pathways from 2022 onwards, and while some of the work can be carried out by volunteers, we will also need to employ specialist contractors and equipment. We will need to fundraise to pay for this work, so if you have experience of organising fundraising events, filing in funding applications or would just like to become involved in this please let us know.



Other roles

Are you an experienced volunteer manager, or a social media guru? Perhaps you are a first aid trainer, a walk leader or an ecologist.

If you would like to use whatever skills you have to help protect Oxleas Woodlands please get in touch by [email](#). There are many opportunities to get involved, some of which we haven't even thought of yet.

Donations

For 2022, FOW has moved from an annual membership fee to a donation-based approach to funding our running costs and projects. If you are able to make a donation either now or later in the year, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to those that have already made a donation.



If you would like to join us occasionally, on a regular basis or simply to find out more please contact us at oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com

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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.

We will be organising walks, talks and other activities throughout the year and will update this calendar to include these.